## Book reviews

**Hámori, D.: Constitutional Disorders and Hereditary Diseases in Domestic Animals. Developments in Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Vol. 11.** Amsterdam, New York: Elsevier 1983. 728 pp., 307 figs. Hard bound $ 125.50.

This remarkably detailed and complete book, as the title implies, is a compilation of the scientific literature of hereditary or presumed hereditary anomalies of domestic livestock. Extensive bibliographies follow each of the chapters, which are titled: General Considerations, Cytogenetic and Clinical Aspects of Constitutional Abnormality, Fertility and Prolificity, Hereditary Reproduction Disorders in Female Domestic Animals, Hereditary Abnormalities in Metabolism, Heredopathology of Organs and Organ Systems, The Gastrointestinal Tract, Respiratory Diseases, The Circulation System, Diseases of the Genitourinary System, The Lactiferous Gland, The Organs of Motion, Resistance to Disease, Problems of Multifactorial Diseases and Genetic Resistance. Titles of articles would have made the bibliographies more valuable but are not given probably in an effort to reduce the number of pages. The 11-page author index, however, is of doubtful value. The 33-page subject index seems complete, although the detailed Table of Contents will generally prove more useful. The author is to be commended for the years of effort required to examine, evaluate, and compile what is undoubtedly the most complete reference work on genetic disorders in domestic animals. Similarly, the translator has generally surmounted the awesome task of translating technical genetic and medical terms to English from Hungarian. The reader, however, must be prepared to reinterpret some of the English phrases that have been rather literally translated. This book is not designed to be a text but is a reference work that veterinarians, animal geneticists, and general animal scientists will find valuable. Veterinary and animal science students will find it particularly valuable as a source of articles for researching reports and papers. All agricultural and veterinary colleges should have this book in their collections.

D. van Vleck, Ithaca

**Kaudewitz, F.: Genetik.** Stuttgart: Ulmer 1983. 443 pp., 249 figs., 12 tabs. Soft bound DM 29,80.

In the preface the author states that the understanding of a scientific field requires not only knowledge of the vocabulary of single facts, but also of the experimental procedures which have served to obtain this understanding. Therefore, in numerous parts of the book experimental details are presented. This is an excellent way to get a student not only acquainted with, but also interested in, the very comprehensive field of genetics. The facts of classical and molecular genetics are presented in a didactic well-balanced manner in 13 chapters: nucleic acids as carriers of genetic information; enzymes of the nucleic acid metabolism; fundamentals of genetics; mechanisms inhibiting alterations of DNA; contents of genetic information, expression of genetic information; molecular phylogeny; new combinations of genes; recombination of genes; complementation (cistron); mutation; extrachromosomal inheritance; regulation of gene action.

One of the main aims of the book is to show the reader that the gap between classical genetics and molecular genetics is being bridged, in comparing gene structures of prokaryotes and eukaryotes and dealing with mitochondrial genetics, mobile genetic elements and gene cloning without neglecting the concepts of mendelian genetics of higher organisms. Figures and tables are well-reflected. Most of them may serve as slides for teaching. The book certainly will be able to replace the Bresch and Hausmann (the last edition of which dates from 1972) in the university teaching programs. Good luck to this book!

K. Esser, Bochum-Querenburg