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It will be a scientist with exceedingly catholic tastes who finds all 4 papers contained in this slim volume of interest. No theme is discernable. As such, personal purchase is unlikely but one might consider its inclusion on the next library list. The areas reviewed are as follows.

With E. M. Wright we are taken gently through the mechanisms whereby epithelial cells of the choroid plexuses secrete cerebrospinal fluid. I found this perhaps the most readable of the four. The diagrams are informative and the scanning electron micrographs fascinating. Cohen and Salzberg surprised an old-fashioned biochemist with their account of measuring electrical membrane potentials optically. This art is now in an advanced state and relies on certain painstakingly synthesized, fluorescent stains for membranes. Whilst systems as disparate as erythrocytes, skeletal muscle and paramecium are being investigated, the emphasis here is on its application to the study of axon signals. Next comes cell-cell recognition and adhesion. In my experience, all reviews of this area are disappointing since one's interest in a crucially

important aspect of developmental biology is not repayed with hard facts. Unfortunately there are few to be had, particularly if, as here, the reviewer, L. Glaser, restricts himself to embryonic adhesion and excludes the more experimentally fruitful marine sponge and slime mould systems. For a lucid account of the state of affairs in this field as a whole, this author's review with W. A. Frazier in *Annu. Rev. Biochem.* (48 (1979) 491–523) is recommended. Finally, P. Propping covers 'the well known facts of pharmacogenetics in a condensed way'. The review is so condensed it does not include an introduction for the general reader and comprises, in the main, lists of observations on a lengthy list of drugs. The central theme relates to the way in which these drugs are detoxified in identical twins as compared with the general population.

This book is thus strictly for the researcher whose field takes in one of these wide ranging topics.

C. J. Chesterton