

While the proposition may turn out to be correct, the practice of reinforcing limited data by referring to published statements of the fact, rather than extension of the observations, gives an impression that there is more experimental data than there really is. I recognised some of the chapters as re-worked versions of previously published articles, some in a supplement to a review journal, published in 1988. I doubt that this is a major criticism, given the constant demands on experts in a particular field to review their subjects in chapter form, and in publications of their presentations at scientific meetings. I am suggesting, however, that there may be less expensive ways to obtain most of the information in this book.

Barry Gorman

*Virus Research*, 21 (1991) 164

© 1991 Elsevier Science Publishers B.V. All rights reserved 0168-1702/91/\$03.50

VIRUS 00706

**Coronaviruses and Their Diseases.** Edited by David Cavanagh and T. David K. Brown. *Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology*, Vol. 276, 1990, Plenum Press, New York, 676 pp. ISBN 0-306-43664-7, US\$ 129.50.

This volume contains some 89 scientific papers which represent the proceedings of the Fourth International Symposium on Coronaviruses held in Cambridge, U.K. in July 1989. As is inevitable with this type of publication, almost all of the information presented has already found its way into peer-reviewed journals. Nevertheless, the compilation of so much information, representing the state-of-the-art of coronavirology in 1989, is a valuable record and work of reference.

The papers are collected into thirteen units, most of which begin with a background paper which sets that aspect of the field into perspective. I like this general approach, but for the most part the background papers are extremely brief and contain few or no references. They are short statements, whereas I would have preferred mini-reviews. The other papers in each unit contain many original data. Since the book is printed on a superior quality paper throughout, data presented as half-tone photographs are very well reproduced. This is a 'camera-ready' production, with various typefaces and styles of presentation. It is a pity that the editors did not demand some uniformity, especially with regard to references. Every style is represented here, from alphabetical order and full titles to non-alphabetical, no titles and superscript numbers in the text. One wonders what, if anything, the editors did except collect the camera-ready manuscripts together.

Despite these criticisms, this is a book that should be made available to all virology research groups with an interest in coronaviruses.

Brian W.J. Mahy