bloodstream stresses the unique recognition systems that cells carry on their surfaces. The review on incompatibility in flowering plants by Lewis illustrates that such precise recognition systems are not restricted to animal cells but exist also in plants.

M. J. BERRIDGE

Modern Pharmacology–Toxicology Series, Volume 9: Hormone–Receptor Interaction, Molecular Aspects
GERALD S. LEVY (Editor)
Marcel Dekker, New York, 1976, pp. 488, SwFr. 148.00

The nature and function of hormones and their receptors has long been a central problem in pharmacology and physiology. Recently the enquiry has been joined by investigators from other fields, in particular biochemists and biophysicists. This volume summarizes the conclusions of a number of workers, and affords a stimulating overview of this rapidly expanding field that will be valuable to those who are coming new to the topic as well as to those whose reading has been confined to the literature of their own speciality. The contents are up to date, citing references up to early 1976, and this is presumably because the contributors are mostly authorities in their field. All the authors are from the U.S.A. or Canada, but reference to important European work has not been neglected. The three main groups of hormone receptors for polypeptides, steroids and tyrosine derivatives are discussed, and those for prostaglandins and acetylcholine are added for good measure. The coverage of the field is not entirely complete; there is, for example, no discussion of parathormone or calcitonin receptors, and the $\alpha$-adrenergic receptor is scarcely mentioned, although the $\beta$-adrenergic receptor merits two chapters to itself. On the other hand, there are two chapters, one being on insulin and the other on hormone receptors in breast cancer, in which an attempt is made to relate the fundamental work on receptors with disease states. Although, as is made clear in these chapters, there is as yet a gulf between the basic information and its application in the clinic, the presence of these sections in a book of this nature is a heartening trend.

Much of the information in this volume is available elsewhere, but gathered together in one volume and ordered into a logical sequence by such distinguished workers as Cuatrecasas, Lefkowitz and Potter this volume provides a most useful introduction and orientation for the advanced undergraduate, postgraduate and established worker. The price, although not quoted in sterling, will dismay, but the layout, typography and design is clear and pleasing, and reading these thoughtful and detailed essays has been an enjoyable experience.

HOWARD ROGERS

Receptors and Mechanism of Action of Steroid Hormones (Part 1)
J. R. PASQUALINI (Editor)
Marcel Dekker, New York and Basel, 1976, pp. 328, SFr. 98.00

This volume consists of seven chapters, concerned with steroid-hormone receptors, written by specialists in their particular fields. The book begins with a detailed discussion of the background to the study of receptors and binding of steroids. Inevitably, the treatment of such a topic is mathematical, but this should not deter the reader from a scrutiny of the remainder of the book. Other chapters review the methods available for localizing (by radioautography), isolating and purifying receptors. The chapter concerned with affinity chromatography is particularly valuable because, not only does it