in the treatment of diseases. However, before this can be fully exploited our knowledge of these molecules, and their mode of action, must be fully investigated.

The series of books 'Progress in Leukocyte Biology' focuses on the biology of granulocytes, mononuclear phagocytes and lymphocytes. This volume (10A) concentrates on 'The Molecular and Cellular Biology of Cytokines' while a sister volume covers 'The Physiological and Pathological Effects of Cytokines'. It covers very many areas related to cytokines. These include: their molcular biology and gene expression; producing and processing methods; receptor regulation and recently discovered receptors; signal transduction within cells, molecules which inhibit cytokine activity; anti-cytokine antibodies; novel cytokines; the inter-relationships of cytokines, endocrine hormones and neuropeptides; and the variety of effects that cytokines have on target tissues.

The books contains papers dealing with interleukin 1, interleukin 6, tumour necrosis factor, colony stimulating factors, interferons, transforming growth factor β, fibroblast growth factor, platelet-derived growth factor and new 8000–10 000 molecular weight cytokines. References will also be found to a number of hormones including insulin, neurokinin, somatomedin and parathormones.

Many of the concise papers (about 6 pages long) are well written and introduce much new information on the cytokines, their effects and ways in which they may be regulated and identified. The new developments and rapid expansion in our knowledge of these molecules are clearly evident.

The general presentation of the papers and the production of the book are very good. As in all such proceedings using camera-ready contributions, there is considerable variation in the typeface, figures, legends, titles and references. For example, in many cases, titles of papers are included in the reference section of the contributions, while in others they are not. The exact addresses of the contributors are included in sufficient detail to allow easy correspondence and it is a feature which should always be included in all such conference proceedings. The contents and index sections are good.

This book will provide much of useful information for anyone involved in cytokine research. It will also be useful for those beginning to learn the complexities of cytokines provided they already possess a good background in the area.

R. O'Kennedy

Molecular Mechanisms in Cellular Growth and Differentiation; Edited by A.R. Bellvé and H.J. Vogel; Academic Press; San Diego, 1991; xxii + 365 pages; $95.00.

Ancient Gaul, as all the world knows, was divided into three parts. This book is also divided into parts — five if you believe the list of contents, but in reality twenty-five, because each chapter stands alone, and in spite of a valiant attempt to link them together, that the editors make in the preface, they are concentrated and unconnected. The common theme of growth and development is far too wide to be encompassed in one volume.

For whom is the book written? It was developed, as the editors coyly put it, from a Biomedical Sciences Symposium organised by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. As such, many of the contributions are those that you would expect to find presented at symposia: up-to-the-minute reports of work that is proceeding in the authors' laboratories, with latest evidence concerning issues that at present hang in the balance. Unfortunately that minute is somewhere in 1987 (although about half of the authors have made use of an opportunity to update references in 1988) and the issues in many cases are long since resolved. Thus the specialists who would have found these chapters highly instructive in late 1987 or early 1988, are doomed to disappointment. Just five chapters have been updated since 1988, and one, by Reid et al. is a thorough review containing nearly 300 references, which has been updated to about the end of 1990.

As to content, eighteen of the twenty-five chapters deal with growth factors, their mechanism of action, receptors, relationship to oncogenes and role in development. Of these, the review by Reid et al. of the regulation of gene expression in cultured liver cells by hormones and extracellular matrix, mentioned above, is worth reading, and the chapter by Gelbert on the Drosophila β TGF homologue, the decapentaplegic gene contains material that will have more than passing significance. Also updated are chapters on seminiferous growth factor by Bellvé and Zhang, $pp60^{c\text{-}src}$ phosphorylation, by Hunter et al., and on G-protein aggregation, by Rodbell. The last seven chapters include five on homeotic genes, one on retinoic acid in pattern formation, and one on villin expression.

In summary, this volume is unlikely to be much read. Proceedings of symposia need to be published much more rapidly to be of use to specialists. If a collection of reviews is required, it needs to be commissioned as such from the authors. This book misses both targets.

J.A. Smith

Lipid Biochemistry — An Introduction; By M.I. Gurr and J.L. Harwood; Chapman and Hall; London, 1991; xviii + 406 pages; £19.95.

This easy to read fourth edition of Lipid Biochemistry is much altered from previous editions containing new chapters as well as