South America” is considerably more general and simply comments on what is known about what had happened in the past and what has been observed in recent expeditions rather than attempting a compilation. Few aspects of medical investigation are untouched by this book and the discussions and references range from the high estrogen levels in African Bushmen to high altitude performance to the genetics of migration. It is strongly recommended to a wide variety of readers.

HERBERT A. LUBS


This small book contains three lectures concerned with the nature of life. Crick deals, in these lectures, with the impact of current research in molecular biology on the theory of vitalism. Unfortunately, Crick lumps together theories of mysterious life-forces with theories claiming that biological systems may possess emergent laws or properties which are not derivable from pure physics and chemistry. As a result, Crick finds himself at a loss to explain natural selection satisfactorily.

The book is organized into presentation of existing knowledge and prediction of future knowledge in three particular areas: molecular biology, the origin of life, and the operation of the higher nervous system. These areas are the points at which Crick believes vitalistic notions, according to his definition, are most likely to be invoked by modern biologists. The strongest case for properties completely derived from chemistry and physics is made in the molecular biology section. The evidence itself, as well as Crick’s unequal familiarity with it, causes a lack of balance among sections: the second two appear very weak. The book is extremely provocative, however. Crick’s ideas about the directions likely to be taken by future molecular biologists, as well as his ideas about the philosophical importance of current knowledge, are well worth reading.

LAURA R. LIVINGSTON


This book contains the papers and symposia presented at the Sixth Inter-science Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, held in Philadelphia during October 1966. The theme of the introductory remarks by Professor Harry F. Dowling, one that stresses the need for a synthesis of the differing outlooks of academic scientists, medical practitioners, business executives, and federal administrators, is particularly applicable to a volume containing contributions from a variety of disciplines. This diversity of content should make the book extremely valuable to a wide audience of pharmacologists and microbiologists. There are 119 original papers in this volume, arranged under 12 section or symposium titles. These headings are: Infectious Diseases—Experimental Studies in Animals and in Humans; Clinical Evaluation of Antimicrobial Agents in Humans; Genetic

328
This test procedure contains the methods for the staining procedures commonly used in Clinical Microbiology Laboratories for the identification of pathogens. 
