PSYCHOANALYSIS AND THE HISTORY OF THE INDIVIDUAL. By Hans W. Loewald. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1978. 77 pp. $7.95.

This new book reflects the transcription of three lectures given at Yale University and dedicated to the memory of Sigmund Freud. They were apparently a wonderfully rambling set of discourses which retain much of their witty informality while necessarily sacrificing some of their spontaneity in the written form.

What is psychoanalysis? Dr. Loewald tackles this question in detail and ultimately concludes that it is a natural science (as Freud maintained) but one which incorporates man's moral nature as well as his biological nature into topics for scientific study. He compares the study of unconscious processes in humans to the study of atomic and subatomic processes that underlie the manifest structures of the physical world. Going a step further, he analyzes the difficult question of responsibility for one's unconscious. He debates this matter objectively and convincingly, and while so doing he defines and describes such notions as a person's "unconscious history" and "archaic mentation." In fact, since so much of his presentation is built upon a few basic terms, the author spares no length in ensuring that the reader understands them etymologically. The word "conscious" itself is an example of such a word which in a colloquial context is understood simply but otherwise its meaning can be quite problematic.

Another idea which is treated in this work is that of repression. Loewald shows how repression is a facet of experience and responsibility which works to exclude undesirable memories, thoughts, or fantasies from our inner organization.

Dr. Loewald, throughout this work, weaves a web of challenging ideas. Whether he is discussing the role of religion in psychoanalysis or the difference between eternity and everlastingness, there is bound to be a complex pattern of logic used to substantiate his point. Perhaps in essence he is paying homage to Freud himself who, according to Loewald, always emphasized the necessity of observing and investigating those phenomena of human life that are referred to as man's higher functions with the same attitude of detached objectivity and unprejudiced wonderment used in the other natural sciences.

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RESEARCH IN PHOTOBIOLOGY. Edited by Amleto Castellani. New York, Plenum Publishing Corp., 1977. 776 pp. $59.50.

This volume is the published proceedings of the Seventh International Congress on photobiology, held in Rome in 1976. It is said to contain material presented by all of the invited speakers at the fifteen symposia.

The papers are short and their quality varies considerably, as is common in multi-author compendia of this sort. The material presented was either new or recent in most cases and, though there is no systematic treatment of the topics, the papers are grouped in sets of related topics, covering a wide range of light-related experimental disciplines. Photosynthesis, DNA repair, medical aspects of photobiology, cutaneous
reactions to light, vision, and mutagenesis are discussed. The volume concludes with remarks made in discussion groups or "round tables" that dealt with controversial topics such as nomenclature, photoprotection, and photochemotherapy.

The book is highly recommended as a resource for persons interested in investigative photobiology.

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Mycoplasma Infection of Cell Cultures. Edited by Gerard J. McGarrity, Donald G. Murphy, and Warren W. Nichols. New York, Plenum Publishing Corp., 1978. 342 pp. $29.50.

This book is a collection of papers dealing with one of the most ubiquitous and troublesome nuisances of present day research in cell biology. Mycoplasma contamination of cell lines in a cell culture laboratory can cause changes in growth and biochemical properties of the cells, thus introducing uncontrolled variables into the experimental system. The papers in this book were presented at a workshop held at the Institute for Medical Research and cosponsored by several branches of the Food and Drug Administration and National Institutes of Health.

The papers deal with all basic aspects of the biology of mycoplasma: nomenclature, epidemiology, physiology, and biochemistry. There are practical discussions in which are described various cultural, histologic, and biochemical tests for the detection of mycoplasma infections and schemes for routine testing for mycoplasma in cell culture laboratories.

Some of the authors lack consistency in style, footnotes, tables, and photographs. The quality of each paper, however, is generally good and taken as a whole the group is superior to most such collections. There is no better source of current information on mycoplasma and the book is recommended to all researchers dealing with the culture of diploid cells.

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Cloning, Nuclear Transplantation in Amphibia. By Robert Gilmore McKinnell. Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1978. 319 pp. $22.50.

It is rumored that the University of Minnesota Press printed Cloning after commercial publishers had turned it down on the grounds of insufficient public interest. If this is true, in view of the recent excitement in the field, they must be gnashing their teeth. The book is restricted to the work that the author knows and does best, namely cloning amphibians. The theory and practice of this art is discussed at length in a charmingly informal style.

Leaving sensational television coverage of the topic aside, there are serious biological reasons for studying cloning. The author reviews the history of attempts to