

three most thought-provoking, as is the Foreword by Dr Cyril Poonamperuma. The Recommendations, pithily stated in only five pages, are apt and to the point, as is the Chapter entitled "Chemistry and World Food Supplies". The reviewer cannot resist the temptation of quoting the following two statements from that Chapter:

- (1) "Farmers, livestock keepers, and food processors and distributors will not only have to produce, process, and distribute twice as much food as they do now. They will also have to change the mix among cereals, meats, and vegetables as well as increase production and distribution by perhaps as much as another 100% to satisfy the greatly expanded demand in developing countries for other than the simplest of diets based primarily on the major cereals."
- (2) "The task of feeding present and future populations is too great and too important for energy to be wasted on confrontations among organisations and people concerned with accomplishing the task."

This is a book which should find a pride of place on the bookshelves of not only all the important libraries of the world, but also on the tables of agricultural scientists, administrators, planners and policy makers all over the world, since food has been and shall continue to be basic need of mankind. This book is of special relevance in view of the stark contrasts in

matter of affluence of food, feed and fodder between the countries belonging to the European Economic Community and the Third World Countries, which have been so forcefully highlighted by Dr Bruno Kreisky, former Chancellor of Austria in his memorable Acceptance Address on the occasion conferring him with the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for 1983 by the President of India on January 11, 1985 at the Teen Murti House, New Delhi. As Dr Kreisky aptly stated, "the imposition of the conservative western philosophy" was at the root of all the evils in the world. Fortunately, countries like India and China have amply demonstrated their ability to keep famine, starvation and death at bay by an admirable amalgam of following pragmatic policies blended with an increasingly greater use of indigenous technologies. The present reviewer has every hope that these extremely sound policies laid down by the architects of independent India would be followed and even strengthened further by the new Indian Government, so that in the years to come, India is not only able to adequately feed its own increasing population but also to extend its friendly cooperation in this important field to the other Third World Countries.

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NEWS

GENE THERAPY AND CONSUMERISM

... At a recent meeting genetics and the law, "Tabitha Powledge [*Bio/Technology* magazine] speculated that germ-line gene therapy may be carried out with *in vitro* fertilization and embryo transfer in private clinics. 'All this time we have feared that human genetic engineering was going to be imposed upon us by a totalitarian government,' she said. 'Instead, it now seems possible that genetically engineered embryos will be just another consumer

product, available for a fee. Is this any more acceptable?' In closing, Powledge . . . advised, 'It's time to start thinking about human genetic engineering in new ways. Indeed, it's almost too late.'" [(Beverly Merz in *Medical World News*, 8 Oct 84, p. 46-62) (Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 52, December 25, 1984, p. 14. Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]
