

IMMUNOLOGY

INTRODUCTION TO IMMUNOLOGY

by John W. Kimball. 1983. Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc. (New York, NY 10022). 532 p. \$27.95.

This textbook is written for a one-semester course in fundamental immunology for advanced undergraduate biology majors and graduate students. A course in genetics and one in biochemistry are prerequisites for using the book, and without them the reader will have difficulty with some of the chapters, especially the one on the genetic basis of antibody diversity.

The book explains the dual nature of the immune system: humoral immunity, the synthesis and release of antibodies into the blood and other body fluids, dependent on B-lympho-

cytes; and cell-mediated immunity, the generation of cytotoxic cells, dependent on T-lymphocytes. The information is well organized, the book is written in a lucid style, and there are numerous excellent diagrams and photographs to assist the reader in understanding the topics discussed.

There is little coverage of the immune system in vertebrate animals other than mammals and birds, only two short paragraphs on invertebrate immunity, and no coverage at all of how plants protect themselves from infectious microorganisms. Since the book is written for biology students, and not students of medicine and related subjects, it would have been appropriate to have given a broader presentation of immunology.

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