

Book Reviews

Down's Anomaly. By L. S. PENROSE and G. F. SMITH. (Pp. vii and 218; 80 figures + 78 tables. 42s.) London: J. & A. Churchill. 1966.

Down's anomaly has always been a meeting point for paediatricians, geneticists, haematologists, and psychiatrists. However, since the discovery of the cytogenetic abnormalities, and the burst of research that has followed this, it has become increasingly difficult for workers in one discipline to keep abreast with advances in others. The importance of this new monograph is immediately obvious. The authors have covered the range of medical practice and basic sciences related to Down's anomaly and aimed at producing a reference manual. In this aim they have succeeded admirably.

After a historical introduction, the first third of the book is devoted to a detailed clinical description of the syndrome, including radiological findings and a chapter on mental development. There is a valuable and lucid chapter on dermatoglyphs which is well illustrated. After comprehensive chapters on the haematological and biochemical changes, there is a critical account of the diagnostic difficulties, with a statistical analysis of the different features of the syndrome, and the importance of such analysis regarding partial or incomplete mongolism is clarified.

There follows a detailed and exemplary review of the cytogenetics covering in addition to the standard trisomy and translocation mongols, the problems of mosaicism, partial mongolism, and additional chromosome anomalies. The book is completed with vital statistics of incidence, life span, and causes of death; a stimulating chapter on aetiology discussing possible causative mechanisms by which the cytogenetic abnormalities arise; and a chapter entitled 'Treatment' consisting mostly of genetic counselling. There is a bibliography of some 700 references and an adequate author and subject index. It is neatly illustrated mostly with line drawings, this doubtless allowing the publication at such a reasonable price.

There is bound to be unevenness in covering such a wide field. Education and social management of mongols are hardly mentioned and this reviewer looked in vain for some speculative discussion on the relation between the extra chromosome and the phenotypic abnormalities. But such omissions in no way detract from the immense value of this book as a comprehensive and authoritative synthesis of knowledge of Down's

anomaly. It can be recommended without reservation to anyone whose work involves study of this condition, either as a clinician or as a laboratory worker.

Inborn Errors of Metabolism. Part 2: Laboratory Methods. By DAVID YI-YUNG HSIA. (Pp. xvii + 244; illustrated. 53s.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers; London: Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books). 1966.

A short time ago the second edition of David Yi-Yung Hsia's *Inborn Errors of Metabolism*, appeared. It was then pointed out that this standard work would now consist of two volumes, the second being devoted to laboratory methods. This review concerns itself with the second volume, a book of 244 pages, reviewing 123 different procedures.

It would be idle to expect that such an effort could be used as a laboratory bench book; however, there are short descriptions of spectrophotometry, electrophoresis, chromatography, estimations of albumin, pseudo-cholinesterase, whole blood clotting time, galactose, protein-bound iodine, oxalic acid, iron, etc. On each occasion valuable references are added.

This is a book which will be most welcome in all paediatric laboratories as a guide to further reading and for immediate advice when problems of procedures arise.

Handbuch der Kinderheilkunde. Edited by H. OPITZ and F. SCHMID. Volume II, Part I: Pädiatrische Diagnostik. Volume II, Part II: Pädiatrische Therapie. (Pp. xxii + 1737; illustrated. DM. 468; subscription price DM. 374.40) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. 1966.

Several volumes of this huge series have already been reviewed in this journal. Trying to review Volume 2 (in two parts; total pages 1737) is like trying to review the Medical Directory—virtually impossible! The first part deals with history-taking and techniques of examination. There is considerable overlap; many systems are first described superficially, then in great detail a few hundred pages further on. The various chapters are extraordinarily uneven. Intelligence tests, EEG, ECG, chromosome analysis, isotope techniques, virology, and