

some that discuss in detail their various changes reported in the literature with useful tables, many illustrations both clinical and chromosomal, and clear chromosomal diagrams. There is a good chapter on trisomy 8 mosaicism, accurately defined only since the introduction of chromosome banding, of which some 35 cases had been reported to the end of 1975. Among the structural chromosome changes, of nine duplications in the long arm of chromosome 7, three involve the same segment, another three a different segment, two involve yet another, and the remaining two are unique; while the twelve duplications in the short or long arm of chromosome 11 are nearly all unique, as are the four deletions in its long arm. In the case of each chromosome, information on the genes it carries is also given so that one is reminded of one of the applications of these chromosome studies, namely deletion mapping which can tell where some genes are not sited.

Both for its practical value in diagnosing and counselling, and for its theoretical potential, the study of specific chromosome deletions and duplications is important and this book is recommended as one that documents and summarizes well the situation at present. It also serves by pointing to the many gaps in information and knowledge, and by indicating the details of study, clinical, chromosomal, and chemical, which are ideally necessary in order to make useful contributions to this expanding field of applied human genetics.

P. E. POLANI

Atlas des Maladies Chromosomiques. By Jean de Grouchy and Catherine Turleau. (Pp. 356; illustrated. Fr.F. 273.50.) Expansion Scientifique: Paris. 1977.

Seven years ago syndromes associated with chromosome abnormalities consisted of less than a dozen fairly well defined entities. Since then the development of banding techniques has allowed much greater finesse, and partial monosomies and trisomies have been described for almost every chromosome. This book is an attempt to gather the reports of single cases that are scattered throughout the literature and to prepare a systematic outline of the clinical findings associated with each chromosome.

True to its title of 'Atlas', the book's layout is comprehensive and orderly. Each chromosome is initially considered briefly under the subheadings of morphology,

evolution, and position of specific gene loci on that chromosome. The clinical features of the various reported anomalies are then given in full detail and illustrated profusely with photographs; the appropriate references are listed. Appendices describe cytogenetic techniques and nomenclature, dermatoglyphics, and the definitions of facial features that characterize the chromosomally abnormal individual.

The book's chief drawback is the rate at which it will become outdated. Although it includes references up to 1976, some descriptions are based on few reported cases and it is inevitable that new reports will show further variations in clinical features. The gene localization field is also expanding rapidly. Even though so much is pictorial and diagrammatic the fact that the *Atlas* is written in French is a hindrance to English readers, though an English translation is being produced. More important is the attitude taken in the introductory section which assumes that all major advances in cytogenetics have come from French laboratories; no such bias is shown in the selection of cases presented, which have been drawn from all nationalities.

Overall the *Atlas* is a useful compendium and will prove interesting to the paediatrician or cytogeneticist who expects to see patients with complicated chromosome abnormalities at regular and not too infrequent intervals.

CAROLINE BERRY

Children, the Environment and Accidents.

Edited by R. H. JACKSON. (Pp. x+164; illustrated + tables. £2.95.) Pitman Medical: London. 1977.

Paediatricians, collectively, have taken little interest in accidents and their prevention. It seems paradoxical that we should categorize the commonest cause of death in our patients as outside our brief. This book may help us to become involved; it provides an outline of accidents in childhood, and some more detailed accounts of selected and specific issues. It is a record of the 1976 Newcastle Conference of the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention, with 15 contributors on three main themes: traffic, home and play, planning and prevention. Inevitably, there is a wide range of style and content, from commonplace generalizations to over specific minutiae, with some repetition. Its achieved intentions, to educate, to arouse interest and to

attempt change, outweigh these disadvantages. If purchased, it will probably be the only book on this subject in most paediatric libraries.

The introductory chapter from Dr. Jackson, the editor, is exemplary: facts and figures are presented, and his conclusions and comments are readable and relevant. The Norman Capener Lecture, describing the impressive reduction in accidental deaths in Sweden, and the methods used by their accident prevention committee gives significance to the rest of the book. The painstaking and somewhat pedestrian papers from some contributors, with conclusions sometimes hardly more than truisms, nonetheless describe the means by which children can be saved from unnecessary injury. This subject may lack glamour, but its importance is undeniable, and this book is a valuable introduction.

J. PARTRIDGE

Breast Feeding and the Mother. Edited by KATHERINE ELLIOTT. (Pp. 280; illustrated + tables. US \$20.95 cloth; \$11.50 paper.) Ciba Foundation Symposium 45 (new series). Excerpta Medica: Amsterdam. 1976.

Dr. Katherine Elliott of the Ciba Foundation has produced a superb volume as the result of a symposium of international experts held in March 1976. The main papers included the physiology of lactation and the effects of lactation on reproduction, a new mother's anxieties and her concept of herself, and the importance of early contact between mother and infant. The place of education in encouraging mothers to breast feed was considered and there were contributions on the social consequences of cultural attitudes to breast feeding in both developed and developing countries.

This balanced volume contains the most recent information available presented concisely. An enormous amount of material is given in an interesting and readable form and there are extensive references and a comprehensive index. The discussion which followed each of the main papers of the symposium has been included. This device enables the reader to see several opinions on a controversial issue, and has given the editor an opportunity to include additional work, for example an indication of the recent WHO collaborative studies. The psychological aspects of breast feeding are discussed fully but an additional