mosome breakage syndromes (2 pages). Extensive coverage seems to be the primary aim of this type of publication and it is the most complete catalogue of human chromosome variation there is to date. It should be, as the author hopes, the first source to be consulted when references on a specific chromosomal abnormality are sought.

The basic idea and cataloguing arrangement are good but *Chromosomal Variation in Man* will have to be regularly updated and extended to realize its full potential and become a chromosomal 'McKusick'.

MICHAEL BARAITSER

New Chromosomal and Malformation Syndromes.

Edited by Daniel Bergsma. Birth Defects: Original Article Series. Vol. XI. No. 5. (Pp. x+346; illustrated. \$16.95.) The National Foundation—March of Dimes. New York: Stratton Intercontinental Medical Book Corporation. 1975.

This is Vol. XI. No. 5 in the *Birth Defects: Original Article Series* and contains selected papers from a conference held in California in 1974. In a previous publication in this series called *Malformation Syndromes* (1974) the editor was criticized for the choice of title which misleadingly implied a comprehensive review of the subject. The present volume has thus been entitled *New Chromosomal and Malformation Syndromes*. Geneticists seem not only to be running out of titles for books, they are running out of titles for syndromes. In this edition we have the 3M syndrome (a name derived from the first letter of the surnames of three of the five authors—one can only feel sorry for the two left out), the KGB syndrome, the G syndrome, and the Floating Harbor syndrome.

What is clear from looking at the superb photographs is that despite all misgivings about the publication of conference papers, the clinical geneticist cannot see enough of the new malformation and chromosomal syndromes, because of the number of malformed infants he sees and is unable to diagnose.

The book is almost equally divided into the chromosomal and non-chromosomal malformation syndromes. There is the inevitable endeavour to describe recognizable syndromes associated with chromosomal abnormalities, and trisomy 9p and trisomy 22 might qualify for recognition. Evidence is presented for the acceptance of three new short stature syndromes and among the better known entities, diagnostic criteria for 'the whistling face syndrome' are reviewed and the variable limb malformations in the de Lange syndrome are documented.

New Chromosomal and Malformation Syndromes is, like the loose-leaf series 'Syndrome Identification', another step forward in trying to make clinical meaning of the multitude of congenital malformations.

MICHAEL BARAITSER

Familial Polyposis Coli. Family Studies, Histopathology, Differential Diagnosis, and Results of Treatment.

By H. J. R. Bussey. (Pp. xiii+104;

64 Figures+14 Tables. £6.60.) Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1975.

Clinical geneticists have been eagerly awaiting this book. The great experience of Dr Bussey in this field is unique, having been associated with Cuthbert Dukes at St Mark's Hospital from 1924. When he retired in 1974 he had been closely concerned with the investigation and recording of nearly 300 families with intestinal polyposis of all types. The book is somewhat disappointing in that it is much shorter than had been hoped—only about 100 pages including 64 figures and 14 tables. In addition Dr Bussey does not give his own personal opinion on several controversial aspects of the subject, but merely quotes the opposing theories. There is little discussion of the possible reasons for the remarkable 45% incidence of solitary cases, nor why in only 9 out of 99 of these patients presenting with a negative family history, did a child or other relative subsequently develop polyposis during a presumably lengthy follow-up period.

Notwithstanding these criticisms, the book is of great value. It contains many tables of data which reveal much about the condition. Dr Bussey's research has been connected mainly with the cancer aspect of the subject and the chapter on the relation to carcinoma is one of the high spots of the book. In these data 62.2% of the 293 patients presenting because of symptoms, already had malignant disease, and multiple carcinomata were found to be 12 times more frequently encountered in polyposis patients than in sporadic colonic cancer.

Dr Bussey sees the main value of the study of polyposis as the light it may throw on the wider problem of intestinal adenomas when solitary or few in number. He considers the suggestion that all adenomas of the large intestine have a genetic origin, though he does not rule out an interaction of environmental and genetic factors even in multiple polyposis families. The intriguing regression of rectal polyps after colectomy is discussed in this context.

For 25 years Gardner's syndrome has been regarded as a separate genetic entity, though the Swedish data of Thor Alm have thrown doubts on this by revealing many families in which only one of several polyposis members had an extracolonic lesion. The St Mark's data also contain 30 families in which only one member had the lesion of Gardner's syndrome. Nor was any difference found between the number of polyps and their distribution in polyposis families with and without Gardner's syndrome. Dr Bussey does not dismiss the idea that all adenomatous polyposis may be Gardner's syndrome with different degrees of manifestation of the subsidiary lesions.

The book is well written and the numerous photomicrographs are excellently reproduced. The references grouped at the end of the book are not comprehensive on the genetics of the subject, but are a useful collection on its neoplastic and clinical aspects. It can be recommended not only to clinical geneticists but also to gastroenterologists and surgeons who meet patients with