help families make these decisions. This book will be of undoubted interest to people involved with research into genetic decision making, but I would be surprised if it succeeds in having much impact on the way in which genetic counselling is practised.

L KERZIN-STORRAR

Cystic Fibrosis: The Facts

By A Harris and M Super. (Pp 133; £8.50.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987.

This attractively presented book, hardback, which has been prepared "for parents and all those who care for children with cystic fibrosis", contains clear clinical descriptions of the disease, assisted by numerous charts and diagrams. There are illuminating passages written by parents and the CF children themselves, which give valuable insights on the problems of day to day living. It is a little surprising that a low fat diet is still advocated for many patients at the Manchester Clinic, but no-one would deny that cystic fibrosis is a disease with variable clinical expression and few proven, beneficial lines of treatment.

The section on genetics is concise and interesting, reflecting the major interests of the authors. The structure of DNA is clearly described. Information is given on the inheritance of the disease as it may affect the extended family, prenatal diagnosis including chorionic villus sampling and amniocentesis, and genetic counselling.

Research into the basic defect, tackled in the final major chapter, is of course a complex matter and much ground has been covered. One wonders if many parents with the exception of those biochemically and genetically trained, would understand it fully, and perhaps it should be made clear that the

'CF protein' described in this chapter is not the one coded for by the CF gene. However, this section does provide a comprehensive and encouraging look at the broad spectrum of cystic fibrosis research. There is an informative glossary and appendix.

I can recommend this book as a most useful and in many ways intriguing addition to the cystic fibrosis literature.

M GOODCHILD

Genetics and Malformations in Art

Edited by J Kunze and I Nippert. (Pp 119). Berlin: Grosse Verlag. 1986.

This book represents a valiant attempt on behalf of the editors to present an illustrated introduction to a fascinating aspect of art history along with a useful bibliography. Artists and craftsmen have often portrayed genetic disorders and malformations in their work, either because of their supposed mystical significance or merely for their intrinsic interest. However, the main problem is often distinguishing a presumed accurate reproduction of a defect by the artist from mere fantasy and artistic licence. Some of the contributors to this monograph do make this distinction and their comments are then that much more valuable, but unfortunately this is not always the case. Detailed knowledge and understanding of a work of art, its creator, and the times in which it was produced are important if more than fanciful guesswork is to be achieved. Nevertheless, many of the illustrations will no doubt be reproduced as interest catching introductions to lectures. The serious student, however, will have to search elsewhere for critical and more in-depth appreciation of the subject.

ALAN E H EMERY