Abhandlungen über die Pathophysiologie der Regulationen. Editors: H. Kleinsorge, H. W. Knipping, and R. Wagner. No. 10: Chromosomenstudien bei Intersexualität. By Rosi Zabel. (Pp. vi + 112; 51 figures + 7 tables. 31s. 10d. Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1966.

Under the general title of intersexuality, the author considers all states of abnormal sexual development and adaptation, whether related to sex chromosome anomalies or not. The first part deals briefly with general consideration of clinical cytogenetics, including methods, and with a review of the chromosomal findings in the many clinical variants of deviant sex development that have been described. In the second part, the author presents a series of cases from the Dermatology Department of the Charité in Berlin, and discusses their chromosomal and other findings in eight short sections. These deal with 14 cases with chromatin-positive Klinefelter's syndrome, a lactating castrated homosexual male, a pituitary dwarf, and a male with Turner's syndrome without webbing of the neck, four cases of gonadal dysgenesis in females, a complex sex chromosome mosaic with a triple-X cell line and pure gonadal dysgenesis, testicular feminization, and male pseudohermaphroditism, transvestism, and transsexualism, and congenital and acquired adrenogenital syndrome.

The cytological and clinical illustrations are of poor quality, and insufficient cytological (e.g. no counts distribution) and at times clinical data are given. There are a number of inaccuracies in the spelling of authors' names and in the literature quoted, and some printing errors have crept in (page 43, first lines).

P. E. POLANI

The Chromosome Disorders. An Introduction for Clinicians. By H. G. Valentine. (Pp. x + 129; 74 figures + 11 tables. 25s.) London: William Heinemann Medical Books. 1966.

This unpretentious and readable little book is written by a clinical paediatrician with the object of imparting information, at a simple level, to clinicians who wish to learn about the relevance of chromosome disorders to practical medicine, but who have little genetic or cytological knowledge. It aims at giving some basic information in three brief chapters, about the cell, cell division, and the origins of chromosome anomalies. Seven short chapters are devoted to the description of the main autosomal and sex chromosomal anomalies. Attention is paid to the clinical as well as to the chromosomal features of the disorders discussed, and thoughts on management are generally put forward. The illustrations are good and clear.

Because of their relevance to the diagnosis of some chromosomal disorders, dermatoglyphics are discussed. The book is written conversationally and here and there it is purposely repetitive. Some slight inaccuracies, particularly in its general chapters, do not detract from its value as an elementary exposition.

P. E. POLANI

The Living Races of Man. By Carleton S. Coon, with Edward E. Hunt, Jr. (Pp. xx + 344; 180 plates + 8 figures + 15 tables + maps. 70s.) London: Jonathan Cape. 1966.

Some anthropologists would go as far as to deny the existence of races of Man, admitting only a range of clines—racially intermediate populations—and of cultural isolates. This is a reaction not only to the confusion of concepts bequeathed by the older anthropologists with their ever-increasing number of 'races' defined by trivial and narrow criteria, but also to the horrors that the political racists have inflicted and continue to inflict on the world. This study by Dr. Carleton S. Coon carries forward the biological approach to the problem of race which he used so effectively in his *Origin of Races*. He accepts the world population of today as falling into three racial groups: predominantly Caucasoid, predominantly Mongoloid, and predominantly Congoid. The criteria for this classification are derived mainly from relatively recent work in genetics. The distribution of variations in blood groups with the protective effects of some genetic constitutions are outstanding features, but so too is the distribution of the insulating mechanisms of skin pigment, hair follicle, sweat glands, and blood vessel distribution which themselves are genetically determined but interact with environmental factors. Population genetics—with its emphasis on slow spread through gene exchange, and rapid effects from the selective value of high infantile mortality among carriers of genes ill-adapted for particular environments—helps to explain the creation of human variability. Such variability is fostered by human action, and Dr. Coon suggests that the title of one of Gordon Childe's books, *Man Makes Himself*, might have carried a fourth word 'variable'. Variability in features sometimes depends on relatively simple mechanisms: skin pigmentation is striking, but is essentially the result of fairly trivial biological differences in skin structure, with a survival value in certain environmental conditions.

The greater part of the text is devoted to a factual account of the different physical and physiological types throughout the world, with critical expositions on such peculiar curiosities as the African and Australian pygmies. The primitive character and the adaptation of these and such-like variants to a particular environment is stressed, while the African Negro is shown to possess considerable admixtures of Caucasian features. Africa has been open to Caucasian invasion for millenia, but the invasion of the American continent is to be counted in centuries. The penultimate chapter on the Racial History of Man since 1492 shows racial evolution in historical times—much of it fairly adequately documented, and Coon concludes that 'America has been less a melting pot than a smorgasbord'—and that 'every tyranny across the Atlantic benefits the American people'.

This book is not only an excellent textbook on anthropology, but an important contribution towards an assessment of race, a subject that 'is becoming more