The Clinical Pathology of Infancy. Compiled and Edited by F. William Sunderman and F. William Sunderman, Jr. (Pp. xiv+565; illustrated+tables. \$26.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1967.

The term 'clinical pathology' in the title of this book is interpreted as being chemical pathology; morbid anatomy and bacteriology and virology are not included. It is a striking comment on the changing relative incidence of disease in infancy that a multi-author book such as this one should appear largely devoted to the clinical pathology of genetically determined diseases.

The book is in four parts. The first 14 chapters, Part I, are on inborn metabolic errors: dysproteinemias, red cell enzyme defects, serum enzyme defects, the infantile lipidoses, the mucopolysaccharidoses, defects of glycogen metabolism, defects of blood coagulation, and defects of amino acid metabolism. The latter are covered in detail in 5 chapters. Part II is on endocrinological disorders of infancy. Part III is on erythroblastosis foetalis, and also on normal values of substances in blood and urine and microtechniques for their estimation. Part IV is a short section of cytogenetics.

Over-all, the contributions are of high standard, but somewhat uneven and somewhat inconsistent in the amount of detail given on laboratory methods. The lipidoses and the errors of amino acid metabolism are fully covered, and methods of investigation are well described and illustrated. The various mucopolysaccharidoses are not separately considered and only a description of a screening method of estimating total acid mucopolysaccharides is given, whereas it is the differentiation of, for example, chondroitin sulphate B and heparitin sulphate which is of clinical importance. The errors of glycogen metabolism and of blood coagulation are fully described, but no details of methods of investigation are given. Errors of sugar metabolism are not described, but a full account is given of methods of identifying sugars in the urine of infants by paper chromatography and thin layer chromatography. There is little description of cystic fibrosis of the pancreas, but a full account is given of the diagnosis of the disease by the estimation of sweat electrolyte levels. Presumably, by a curious lapse of memory, this condition is said to be transmitted as a Mendelian recessive trait in one chapter (correctly), and to be transmitted as a Mendelian dominant in the next chapter.

Both chemical pathologists and paediatric registrars will read this book with profit as a supplementary text to standard works of paediatrics and chemical pathology.

C. O. CARTER

The Placenta in Twin Pregnancy. By S. J. Strong and G. Corney. (Pp. xvi+134; illustrated+tables. 105s.) Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Toronto, Sydney, Paris, Braunschweig: Pergamon Press. 1967.

As Professor Chassar Moir points out in his foreword, 'it is a curious fact that a happening so remarkable as the occurrence of a twin pregnancy should hitherto have attracted but little serious attention from obstetricians?'. This book helps to close the gap in our knowledge. The opening chapter is devoted to an historical description of the placenta in twins. William Smellie (1751) observed the possible communication between the placentae of twins, but in fact van der Weil (1687) was the first to give a description of the vascular anastomoses between the placentae.

All aspects of the twin placenta are then considered including development, frequency of turning, and the various methods at present available for examining the placenta. This latter chapter includes a very complete consideration of the twin transfusion syndrome. Final chapters are devoted to the vascular communication in both the monochorial and dichorial placentae.

Throughout this book there is a liberal use of illustrations and of photographs, many of which are in colour. This is the essential reason why its 134 pages cost 105 shillings. The care shown in the preparation of this excellent study is demonstrated by the very full bibliography which includes 674 references.

This book, devoted as it is to the placenta, inevitably considers only this side of the foetus-placental unit. It is to be questioned whether such a division is desirable though a very great deal has been achieved within the limits imposed. Frequently there is a feeling that only half the story has been told. It is a pity, therefore, that the authors were not encouraged to be bold and to undertake a comprehensive review of all the problems related to twins, at least during pregnancy and the neonatal period. Such a study is needed very much indeed. Inevitably this would also produce a much larger book but one which would be of enormous interest to both obstetricians and paediatricians, as well as to placentalogists and placenterians.

N. MORRIS

Karyotyp und Phänotyp der autosomalen Chromosomenaberrationen beim Menschen. By Rudolf Arthur Pfeiffer. (Pp. x+295; 51 figures+23 tables. DM.84.) Stuttgart: Gustav Fischer Verlag. 1968.

This survey of human autosomal abnormalities, by an