amniocentesis but the number will grow. Because of the rarity of most inborn errors the techniques necessary for the biochemical analysis of cell cultures or of amniotic fluids will be available in very few centres in the world and much cooperation between laboratories will be necessary.

The editors and authors of this volume are to be congratulated in undertaking a review of this embryonic area and for having produced such a useful and pleasantly written book. I hope they will be encouraged to keep pace with developments by producing a new edition at frequent intervals.

R. HARRIS

The Child with Down's Syndrome (Mongolism).

By David W. Smith and Ann Asper Wilson. (Pp. 106; figures + tables. \$5.75.) Philadelphia, London, and Toronto: W. B. Saunders. 1973.

The parents of Down's syndrome children have been waiting a long time for a book of this sort and it will be most useful to them and to non-scientists interested in or working with Down's syndrome children. As a medical social worker, one greets it with enthusiasm. The explanation of chromosome behaviour is well done, the diagrams are clear and informative, and the terminology is particularly suited to the non-specialists. The explanation of amniocentesis is good and it is only a minor criticism that on page 19 it is suggested that parents should decide after amniocentesis whether or not to have a termination. Can amniocentesis be justifi-

fied if a mother knows at the outset that she will not have a termination?

The book contains a welcome realistic appraisal of the social achievements of a Down's syndrome child and the kind of physical anomalies that might be present. The photo album of charming pictures includes patients of all ages; the babies are especially attractive and one hopes that parents will not be disappointed if they find that their own children are not quite so beautiful.

Chapter 4 gives some sensible and practical ideas—if indeed anyone can be practical in such an emotive situation—on acceptance, emphasizing the need to understand something of Down's anomaly and how it will influence the child and the child's whole family. If anything is missing here it is perhaps some facts and figures on numbers of adult mongols and their current care and activities.

Perhaps the best thing about the book and the way the subject is treated is that it will serve as a continuous source of reference. When all this information is packed into three or four specialist consultations it cannot possibly be retained; with the book, parents can turn to particular aspects when needed, reminding themselves of things they already know and looking up new information as and when they need it and can absorb it. More and more it is becoming obvious that total acceptance of a serious handicap in a child only comes over a long period and in that period a reference book is invaluable. Perhaps a British edition might be considered with information on facilities and provisions here. We are grateful to the authors for this sensitive, informative, and needed book.

KATHLEEN EVANS