increases the risk of congenital heart disease in the offspring. Dr Reynolds found that in a group of children with congenital heart disease, aortic stenosis, usually subvalvular, was about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times more common in those with intrauterine retardation than in those without it, suggesting that intrauterine growth retardation of children with cardiac defects is due to intrauterine organ hypoplasia. Idiopathic endocardial fibroelastosis is the topic of three authors (Hutchins, Rosenquist and colleagues, and Rose) who, respectively, feel that it is a disease secondary to interstitial myocarditis in many cases, that it is probably not an immunologic disease, and that after the birth of the first affected child, the sib recurrence risk is 17.7%. Fascinating discussions of hereditary cardiovascular malformations in dogs by Drs Patterson and Mulvihill stress the value of research using these available animal models.

Several new syndromes with cardiovascular components are described, and many known syndromes are further elucidated, including the controversial Noonan syndrome, with pedigrees suggesting a dominant inheritance discussed by Nora and colleagues. The Holt-Oram syndrome, the surdo-cardiac Jervell and Lange-Nielsen syndromes and the genetic mucopolysaccharidoses are reviewed in detail. Genetic counselling, presentation, and cardiac manifestations of the familial form of hyperlipoproteinaemia are lucidly presented. A most useful contribution is Nora's and Spangler's excellent summary of known recurrence risks for cardiovascular anomalies.

We are reminded by Dr German that chromosomal analysis has not revealed aetiological changes in isolated congenital heart disease; however application of techniques with greater resolution will test for possible minute imbalances. Dominant forms of hereditary familial cardiomyopathy and hereditary ventricular hypertrophy are presented, representative of the few congenital heart disorders inherited in Mendelian fashion.

The many case presentations are most instructive and the appendix, compiled by Dr Char, of heritable congenital heart disease types with a recent reference for each, is a most valuable feature for all readers.

In short, this useful volume recommends itself as a

reference text for the personal or unit libraries of all clinical geneticists and cardiologists.

ANNE H. CHILD

Heritable Disorders in Orthopaedic Practice. By Ruth Wynne-Davies. (Pp. xi + 231; figures + tables. £4.75.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific. 1973.

Miss Ruth Wynne-Davies writes in her preface regarding the orthopaedic and genetic aspects of this book: 'Working in the no-man's land between the two disciplines, I am no expert at either.' This is modest but untrue; she is, if I may say so without frivolity or offence, that very rare bird, an expert in both. Indeed, there is no one in this country who has contributed more to the knowledge of orthopaedic genetics by personal and widely organized field studies, and to produce valid results the worker must have a first-class background in clinical orthopaedics as well as in genetics, lest he or she be deceived in the diagnostic field.

This is an excellent little book. It starts with a primer of genetics and practical advice on planning a survey and on genetic counselling, all directed primarily at the orthopaedic reader. Miss Wynne-Davies knows the limits of her clinical colleagues and does not try to dazzle them with the (to us) complex mathematics, a knowledge of which is essential to the academic geneticist. She makes it all sound easy, but I trust that the orthopaedic surgeons nevertheless will be chary of trying to give genetic counselling except in the most clear-cut circumstances. She is brief and not unduly didactic; only in some of the clinical descriptions does she sometimes get a little carried away. The text is leavened with outline drawings, some of which are brilliant, most of them good, and only a few of which miss the mark.

But for a book which is necessarily something of a synopsis she has managed, while writing with authority and clarity, to produce a most readable text. It is not an academic book for geneticists; the few well-chosen references are almost all clinical, and the every-day working orthopaedic surgeons will be most grateful to Miss Wynne-Davies for giving us just what we have been waiting for.

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