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the syndrome presented here because of the association of hypospadias and cleft palate and because of the variable expression in obligate female carriers. It should be noted, however, that cleft palate does not occur in all cases of the hypertelorism-hypospadias syndrome and coloboma is not mentioned as an associated characteristic while our patients showed no hypertelorism.

The variety of syndromes associated with cleft palate and the many varied modes of inheritance make it increasingly important in genetic counselling to treat each family with these defects individually and to base the counselling as much as possible on the individual family history instead of some 'melting pot' empirical risk. Further studies on the underlying biochemical defects are needed before the precise genetic systems involved in cleft palate or cleft lip/palate will be understood.

We wish to thank Drs Bryan Hall, James O'Donnell, and Wes Dempsey for their help in studying this family.

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Announcements

The Harold Cummins Memorial Dermatoglyphics Symposium and Dermatoglyphics Workshop

To honour the late Dr Harold Cummins of Tulane University, New Orleans, these meetings will be held 28-31 March 1977 in the Convention Center at the Gulf State Park Resort, Gulf Shores, Alabama. The meetings being jointly sponsored by the American Dermatoglyphics Association and the Department of Medical Genetics, University of South Alabama, Mobile, are designed both to introduce newcomers to dermatoglyphic techniques and to review the present status of the science in some detail.

For information write to Dr W. Wartecki, Department of Medical Genetics, University of South Alabama, 2451 Fillingim Street, Mobile, Alabama 36617, USA.

Conference on Clinical Delineation of Birth Defects

The University of Tennessee Center For The Health Sciences, Memphis, Tennessee, and The National Foundation—March of Dimes will sponsor the 1977 Conference on the Clinical Delineation of Birth Defects, 8 to 10 June 1977, in Memphis. For information write Robert L. Summitt, M.D., Department of Pediatrics, University of Tennessee Center for The Health Sciences, Memphis, Tennessee 38163, USA.

Fourth International Workshop on Human Gene Mapping

The Fourth International Workshop on Human Gene Mapping will be held in Winnipeg, Canada from Sunday 14 August to Thursday 18 August 1977. Attendance at this meeting will be limited to 125 participants. Those wishing to attend should apply, indicating the contribution they propose to make to the Workshop, to the Chairman of the Organizing Committee: John L. Hamerton, D.Sc., F.C.C.M.G., Department of Genetics, Children's Centre, 685 Bannatyne Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3E 0W1 Canada.

Closing date for applications is 1 April 1977.

Fourteenth International Congress on Genetics

The Fourteenth International Congress of Genetics will be held in Moscow, USSR, 21-30 August, 1978. The Congress will be concerned with Genetics and Human Welfare. The main subjects of contemporary genetics will be included in the programme of the plenary and other sessions and symposia.

For further information write to: National Organizing Committee for the XIV ICG, 11 Fersman Street, Pouch 4, 117312 Moscow, USSR.