Inherited Disorders of the Skeleton


There is a great need for monographs on the genetics of the various system specialities, so that the genetics of the skeleton are not usually covered by useful black and white photographs. Roughly half of the conditions covered by Beighton are relatively minor variants of a skeletal dysplasia, and the genetics of over 120 different disorders affecting the skeleton. The 'inherited disorders of the title are not taken literally, in that common but non-Mendelian disorders of the hip, talipes equinovarus, and idiopathic spondylolisthesis are not discussed, though several rarer malformations are illustrated. The majority of these conditions appear to be the author's area of expertise.

The grouping of various types of disorder into chapters seems to work rather well, but it also causes difficulties in finding one's way around, especially in the first three chapters. The book is well written and provides a good introduction to the subject of skeletal dysplasia. However, the author's terminology is often rather technical, and at times rather arbitrary. I suspect that this was done to make the chapters of manageable length. The book provides a thumbnail sketch of the clinical features and the genetics of the various disorders, so that it is hoped that readers will find it useful.

The book is well written, and the author is to be congratulated on making the book portable without lowering standards of production.

N. R. Denby

Abstract from The Study of Man: An Introduction to Human Biology.


Review by Colin Beighton.

This book is the second edition of a well-respected monograph on the genetics of the skeleton, and the author has done a thorough job of updating and revising the first edition.

The book is well written, and the author's terminology is often rather technical, but it is hoped that readers will find it useful. The book provides a thumbnail sketch of the clinical features and the genetics of the various disorders, so that it is hoped that readers will find it useful.