Book Reviews

Elements of The Natural Movement of Population.

By Egon Vielrose. Translated by I. Dubosz. Translation edited by H. Infeld and P. F. Knightsfield. (Pp. 288; 66 figures + 146 tables. 70s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1965.

In this book, 'the fruit of more than 20 years' work on problems of demography', Egon Vielrose, Professor of statistics and demography at the University of Warsaw, discusses the topics to be found in nearly every demographic work. The first two chapters introduce the methods of collection of demographic information, the reliability of the data collected, and the accuracy of rates computed from them. Chapter 3 deals with population structure by sex, age, and marital status. The last three chapters consider marriages, births, and deaths, and the treatment in each of these is the same—the present situation in various countries, variations within a given country, and the demographic factors responsible for them, and how these have changed with time. The many examples, and particularly those from Eastern European countries, enhance the value of the book and so does the attempt to introduce concepts of the statistical significance of the data.

It is chiefly of interest in that it shows what demographic problems are considered important by a Polish demographer. As such it will be of more appeal to demographers than to readers of this journal, who are advised to approach it with caution. The translation is stilted, and in places misleading, since terms that have a specific connotation in demographic work are often rendered by words that mean the same in normal English usage but something very different in demographic writing: the title for instance would have been more correctly rendered by 'population trends', implying change in size or structure, rather than 'movement of population' implying migration. Proof reading, particularly of the many tables, has left much to be desired (e.g. p. 92 the marriage rate in Sweden in 1760 is shown as 1·8; p. 15 $\sqrt{np}$ is equated with $np(1-p)$), so that it would be safer to refer immediately to the *U.N. Demographic Yearbooks*, the main source of statistical information contained in the book. For these weaknesses the fault lies with the translator and publisher rather than with the author. In brief, for non-demographers there are other, safer, easier-to-read, introductory demographic works. But those who are prepared to read not what is printed but what the author intended will find much of interest in the present volume.

D. F. ROBERTS

Intestinal Polyposis. (Galton Laboratory Memoirs No. 40.) By A. M. O. Veale. (Pp. v + 104; 9 figures + 3 plates + 21 tables. 35s.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1965.

Familial polyposis of the colon has long attracted attention because it is responsible for one of the rare forms of cancer which show a strong familial concentration. The families known to St. Mark's Hospital in London were reported by Dukes in 1952 who confirmed that the condition was dominant. Dr. Veale has brought

the series up to date, helped by Dr. Morson on the pathology, and advanced genetic analysis of the condition, using the more advanced methods which have been developed in the Galton Laboratory. The condition of 'juvenile polyposis' has been recognized as a pathologically distinct condition and will be the subject of a later paper.

Sixty-four families were available for study, 59 of the classical type and 5 of the type in which cutaneous cysts are also present. The mean age at the onset of symptoms in the index patients was 32 years, of cancer 29 years, and of death from cancer 43 years. The estimated incidence was 4×10^{-5} and fitness was approximately 80%. The mutation rate of the gene concerned was, therefore, estimated to be 4×10^{-6} .

Dr. Veale draws attention to the high sib/sib and the low parent/child correlation in age at death from cancer. This is probably due to the modification in the age of onset caused by allelic modifiers. Dr. Veale makes the ingenious suggestion that there are two such alleles, one a 'wild' type and one he calls 'p' which causes early cancer if it is carried with the familial polyposis gene, and by itself in the homozygous state causes occasional polyps which are pre-cancerous. A study of linkage with 11 blood group loci showed no evidence of linkage, except perhaps with the Duffy locus.

C. O. CARTER

Symposium on Advanced Medicine. Proceedings of a Conference held at the Royal College of Physicians of London November 16-20, 1964. Edited by Nigel Compston. (Pp. xiii + 410; illustrated. 35s.) London: Pitman Medical Publishing Co. 1965.

The Conference held last November at the Royal College of Physicians on the occasion of the opening of their new house at Regent's Park was an innovation that has proved gratifyingly successful and has prompted two further innovations. In the first place these conferences are likely to become annual events and secondly early publication is likely to ensue, even if the resultant volume lacks perfection in editing and printing. The present volume is all the more welcome as its contents suggest that the scope of the conferences is likely to be broad enough to interest other clinicians.

The text consists of nine sections and these cover a very wide field indeed. Each of these sections carries four contributions. The section on Genetics opens with a lucid account of the Genetic Code contributed by F. H. C. Crick in one of the two eponymal lectures at the Conference. It is as clear as an account, which does not delve deeply into protein synthesis, could be. A most useful description of chromosome anomalies is contributed by P. E. Polani; it is clear, full, and up to date. P. M. Sheppard dealt briefly with Natural Selection in Man, while C. A. Clarke, in a review on Genetics and the General Physician, dealt with pleiotropism and with gene interaction as exemplified by ABO incompatibility in relation to Rh haemolytic disease. These four papers are in themselves a good introduction to present-day clinical genetics.

A.S.