ists, or other basic scientists with a clinical interest, medical geneticists, or those clinicians dealing with developmental and hereditary disorders – paediatricians, and (since the subject is the skeleton) plastic, dental, and orthopaedic surgeons. The details of experimental data will probably be too brief for scientists and too dense for many clinical readers, but it is right that the information should be included and there are abundant references for those wishing to pursue the subject further.

The author is always careful to point out the difficulties of disentangling primary and secondary genetic effects; for example, an abnormality of the neural tube may exist in its own right or be related to one of the pre-existing primitive streaks. The animal chondrodystrophies make interesting reading although it is disappointing that they cannot be closely related to those occurring in the human, most of them, for example, being of autosomal recessive inheritance. Perhaps the weakest (clinical) section is that relating to human limb deformities, with no mention of recent work and classification, and no mention of that most devastating human teratogen (Thalidomide); neither experimental work relating to it nor clinical research of those women taking the drug who did, or did not, produce deformed children. However, that is a small section of the whole and I have enjoyed reading this book. It is well written and produced and I feel is a valuable addition to my bookshelves.

In his final chapter the author concludes that disorders of structural development are of such complexity (compared with the short, direct relationship of first order biochemical enzyme related diseases) that animal models are not necessarily of much use in medicine, but their use in science certainly makes fascinating reading. We should be grateful to the publishers and author for ignoring the advice of two readers....“one said expand the clinical part; another said omit it”. More of these bridging books are needed.

RUTH WYNNE-DAVIES

Craniostenosis: Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Management

Edited by M Michael Cohen Jr. (Pp 624: \$155.50.) New York: Raven Press. 1986.

A child with craniostenosis may present to any one of a number of medical disciplines. Often, fragmented management results in the family receiving conflicting information about cause, prognosis, in-

dications for surgical intervention, and recurrence risk. Dr Cohen's text on craniostenosis is directed at all those involved in the management of this birth defect. As a landmark attempt at bringing together the various disciplines, this volume cannot but lead to more cohesive patient care.

As well as editing the volume, Dr Cohen has contributed almost half the text. In the introductory chapters, he unravels some of the current confusions about terminology, classification, and aetiology of craniostenosis. The chapters that follow, contributed by a number of distinguished authors, cover a wide range of topics such as pre- and postnatal growth and development of the craniofacial skeleton, radiological findings, surgical management, and the neurological and ophthalmological complications of craniostenosis. Paul Tessier's chapter on craniofacial surgery especially is comprehensive and brings to attention some current surgical advances, many of which have been pioneered by the author.

Of particular interest to the clinical geneticist/dysmorphologist is the last chapter devoted to syndromes. Here, Cohen expands on his previously published work on syndrome delineation and describes 64 well established syndromes in some detail. With few exceptions, description of each syndrome is accompanied by at least one excellent quality photograph. Finally, the author lists a large number of 'miscellaneous and spurious' syndromes and his extensive knowledge of the literature allows him to provide a critical commentary on the validity of some of these conditions.

Not uncommonly, one problem in a book of this kind, which is directed at such a wide variety of disciplines, is failure to cover one area in sufficient depth to satisfy the informed reader. Judging by the chapters on embryology, surgical correction, and syndrome delineation, this certainly would not be a valid criticism of this volume. Cohen's book on craniostenosis has been eagerly awaited; it does not disappoint. Despite its rather high cost, the book should be within 'hand's reach' of those managing the many different aspects of craniostenosis.

H E HUGHES

Cell and Molecular Biology of the Cytoskeleton

Edited by J W Shay. (£49.50.) New York: Plenum Press. 1986.

The first sentence of the first review in this disparate collection of reviews sets the stage admirably: "Animal cells employ about 20 to 35% of their total protein synthesis to construct the cytoskeleton"