average taller and heavier than men who continued to live in the valley.

Why this book was necessary is shown by the contrast between parts one and two on the one hand and part three on the other. None of the chapters on pathology appreciates the extent of the heterogeneity of population which is so well shown in their predecessors. This is, of course, understandable, for the investigations of genetic pathology belong to a later generation, and these should be regarded rather as a first analysis in the hope that other studies along the same lines will be instituted to explore the additional dimension of heterogeneity. There is a lot of material in this book, which is well illustrated and easy to read. As an introduction to the biological diversity within the Welsh population, and a source of reference for any who wish to pursue studies on the Welsh people, it is highly recommended.

D F ROBERTS

The Dysmorphic Child: An Orthopedic Perspective
By Michael J Goldberg. (Pp 448; \$80.00.) New York: Raven Press. 1987.

This book is written principally for the clinician who has an interest in the diagnosis and natural history of children affected by syndromes with "important musculo-skeletal deformity". That is, it deals with abnormalities of morphogenesis rather than with the skeletal dysplasias and myopathies. It will be of particular interest to medical geneticists and orthopaedic surgeons, and the former should not shy away from the subtitle, since the scope is much wider than just bone and joint deformity.

The syndromes are grouped together when there is similarity of physical appearance, the stated aim being to help with the diagnosis of dysmorphic children who initially appear to look similar. In addition to differential diagnosis, Dr Goldberg includes a review of the associated orthopaedic problems and each chapter ends with several pages of references, helpfully grouped according to the subjects within that chapter.

The subjects dealt with are: arthrogryposis and its syndromes, haemangioma syndromes, Marfan and Marfanoid habitus, selected 'short' and 'small' syndromes, syndromes of overgrowth, neurofibromatosis and the historical phakomatoses, Ehlers-Danlos syndromes, three chapters relating to congenital limb anomalies, growing up in a bad environment, and finally Down's syndrome and other chromosome abnormalities.

I found some of this excellent, in particular the

chapters dealing with arthrogryposis, haemangioma syndromes, and the syndromes of overgrowth. These are good review articles of material it is not easy to find summarised elsewhere. Those on Marfan, neurofibromatosis, Ehlers-Danlos, and the chromosome abnormalities are accurate, as is the brief review of 'environmental' disorders. The chapters dealing with congenital limb anomalies attempt an impossible task, in view of the huge numbers of syndromes and the frequency of anomalies occurring in isolation. Only well known syndromes are included.

The number of references is rather overwhelming, and it would have been helpful to have some key ones noted. However, the book as a whole is well written and presented, and particularly valuable for its overview of the complex subjects mentioned above.

RUTH WYNNE-DAVIES

Neuromuscular Diseases

By Jaap Bethlem and Charlotte Knobbout. (Pp 158; £9.95.) Oxford: Oxford Medical Publications. 1987.

This small and concise book is written by an experienced neurologist and a physiotherapist. Its aim is to present information about neuromuscular diseases, briefly and succinctly, to doctors (consultants down to medical students), occupational and physiotherapists, and nurses. There are chapters on classification and examination and treatment, followed by ones on the individual muscular dystrophies, spinal muscular atrophies, and neuropathies. The chapter on genetics is deliberately brief, rightly recommending referral to a genetic centre, rather than encouraging readers of this book to proffer advice themselves. The tables giving categories of genetic muscular disorders are, however, useful.

One of the strengths of this book is its emphasis on natural history and management. This is because the authors are aware of what is happening to patients at home who no longer attend hospital and the physiotherapists' approach to management is valuable. Another merit of this book is clear photographs, which clearly illustrate signs of a disease, and which are particularly good in the section on testing muscle function. Each chapter has a series of postscripts which are helpful aids to memory or which are thought provoking. Some, however, are misleading because of their brevity. A disadvan-