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

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 habits, 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

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 perform 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-
In Vitro Fertilisation: Past, Present and Future

Human in vitro fertilisation is a subject which impinges on many aspects of society. As an applied clinical scientific speciality it has provided a solution to the problems of infertility for a large and increasing number of couples, but its practice and potential research applications have made it a procedure which generates more controversial ethical and legal dilemmas than most. This book presents a concise and comprehensive review of the clinical, scientific, moral, and legal aspects of the subject, each chapter being written by a different specialist from his or her viewpoint.

The book opens with a chapter on the historical background of IVF, from the discoveries of the early embryologists, through the developments of tissue culture techniques, to the introduction of modern methods of endocrinology and laparoscopy as prerequisites of current IVF practice. The second chapter considers 'The infertile couple', identifying the criteria used for selecting those for whom IVF is an appropriate therapy, emphasising that the procedure is used as a 'last resort'. There then follow eight chapters devoted, in varying degrees of detail, to the clinical, scientific, and technical procedures used in IVF, including the hormonal assessment and control of ovulation, laparoscopic and ultrasound techniques for oocyte recovery, laboratory methods for semen preparation, in vitro fertilisation and culture of pre-embryos, and, finally, the embryo transfer procedure. All of these chapters are well written and informative, particularly those on 'Preparation for human in vitro fertilisation in the laboratory' (S Fishel and P Jackson) and 'Andrology and semen preparation for IVF' (R J Aitken) which provide both comprehensive reviews and helpful technical detail.

Subsequent chapters, dealing with the success rates of IVF, variations in IVF programmes, and the nursing care and counselling of IVF patients, complete the clinical and scientific section of the book.

The remaining half dozen chapters, amounting to about one-third of the book, are largely devoted to the ethical, legal, sociological, and political issues which surround the IVF procedure and its related applications. Collectively, these chapters comprise a debate on well-recognised controversial issues, such as the moral status of an embryo, argued from the balanced viewpoint of an academic theologian, and the legal rights of an embryo, as interpreted by a Queen's Counsel. The section includes a forthright commentary by a Member of Parliament (Leo Abse) on the political difficulties of implementing the type of recommendations made in the Warnock report; this chapter is very much a politician's personal view of events but provides interesting reading and makes understandable the apparent reluctance of the Government to get to grips with the problems of introducing legislation on this contentious subject.

The penultimate chapter speculates on future developments of IVF and its potential research applications, some of which may prove more difficult in practice than is sometimes implied. These would have seemed appropriately exciting subjects of which to end the book, and in keeping with its subtitle 'Past, Present and Future'. The final chapter, however, is rather a unexciting account of a computer system designed for use in an IVF centre, which might have been better placed at the end of the clinical and scientific chapters.

In summary, the book is extremely good and can be recommended to a wide readership. It provides a useful comprehensive review of the state of the art for those involved professionally or at the fringes of this developing sub-speciality, and is sufficiently well written and readable to be appreciated by those with a passing philosophical interest in the subject.

Sarah Bundey

Alan McDermott