Book reviews

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The Child with Multiple Birth Defects

By M Michael Cohen. (Pp 205; \$48.50.) New York: Raven Press. 1982.

This book provides a structured framework within which to approach dysmorphology. It starts with chapters on malformation, deformation and disruption, syndrome prototypes, and delineation (that is, lumping v splitting). Cohen then goes on to draw this together in a rational approach to syndrome diagnosis. Further chapters then cover dysmorphic growth and development and neoplastic aspects of syndromology. The important topic of psychosocial aspects of syndromes is also given considerable, and sympathetic, attention.

Cohen's book was first published in 1982 and the major concepts it deals with are familiar to anyone with an interest in dysmorphology. However, it should also appeal to anyone new to this field, students, and doctors in other specialities, and would be a useful addition to any hospital library. It provides a framework in which one can begin to fit together what can otherwise seem confusing and unrelated findings. It is thought provoking and gives considerable insight into dysmorphology.

This is a delightful book and on the whole the style is lucid and very readable, but some of the illustrations and flow charts are confusingly laid out and not adjacent to the related text.

C McKEOWN

Leucocyte Typing III: White Cell Differentiation Antigens

Edited by A J McMichael *et al.* (Pp 1050; £80.00.) Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1987.

Leucocyte Typing III is the third in a series of books devoted to human leucocyte differentiation antigens. It presents the proceedings of the 3rd International Workshop on Leucocyte Differentiation Antigens held in Oxford in September 1986 under the chairmanship of Professor Andrew McMichael and colleagues, who also edit the book. These workshops have been organised as a result of rapid developments in monoclonal antibody technology. They provide the main forum for the screening of leucocyte monoclonal antibodies and the nomenclature of human leucocyte differentiation antigens. The organisation, proceedings, and presentation of the workshop results, admirably summarised in this

book, will be familiar to those with an interest in the HLA Histocompatibility Workshops. The book presents the results of patterns of monoclonal antibody reactivity on panels of different leucocytes, recognising 'clusters of differentiation' (CD). The first workshop defined 15 CD antigens; *Leucocyte Typing III* takes this to 45, with several others still undefined.

The book is organised into sections dealing with the CD antigens of the main leucocyte populations (T and B lymphocytes, myeloid cells), platelets, and antigens which are non-lineage restricted. Each section presents the analysis of a workshop study and is followed by a series of original research papers relevant to that section, using reagents to defined CD antigens. These address questions of epitope diversity, cell and tissue distribution, and functional significance of various leucocyte molecules. Some also use techniques such as somatic cell hybrids, gene cloning, and transfection of CD genes.

This book is essentially directed at those producing or using monoclonal antibodies to human leucocyte antigens. Nonetheless, the definition of the 45 CD antigens, as well as the listing of more than 900 monoclonal antibodies and their originators, makes it a valuable reference work for anyone interested in using monoclonal antibodies to analyse constitutional and acquired changes in leucocyte subpopulations in relation to human disease. Since much of the information is completely new it would be hard to find better value for over 1000 pages. The multi-authorship has been handled by careful editing to ensure that the information content is high. All of this information could be confusing, if the editors and publisher had not taken care over the layout, with clear uncluttered tables and diagrams. To present the most complete picture of current knowledge relating to human leucocyte antigens in a field of rapid change is one achievement. To have accomplished such a publishing feat in a short space of time is another.

G M TAYLOR

Molecular Approaches to Human Polygenic Disease

Ciba Foundation Symposium 130. Chaired by D J Weatherall. (Pp ix + 274; £28.95.) Chichester, New York: John Wiley. 1987.

Recombinant DNA technology over the last few