lod scores. Both texts make useful suggestions for further reading, and set problems at the end of each chapter. I was disappointed, however, that little attention was paid to dysmorphology as a component of clinical genetics in either volume, and nor was there a systematic discussion of the potential complications of genetic disorders, and how they may sometimes be avoided.

ANGUS CLARKE

Down Syndrome: The Facts. Mark Selikowitz. (Pp 205; £10.95 hardback, £5.95 paperback.) Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1990.

Some time ago, when a non-medical friend had a baby with Down's syndrome and asked me for a book to read, I was hard pressed to recommend one. Happily, this would no longer apply, as this excellent little book fits the bill admirably. The book is the latest in a series which aims to inform the lay public about common medical problems, and is intended primarily as a guide for parents of a child with Down's syndrome.

Attitudes to Down's syndrome have changed markedly in the last 20 years: more children are reared at home, and there are better opportunities for education and integration into the community. The growth of parents' associations, and the philosophy of normalisation, treating the disabled adult appropriately for his or her age rather than as a child, have both helped to bring about these changes. This book, written by a developmental paediatrician, is in tune with this philosophy but maintains a realistic view of the achievements of persons with Down's syndrome.

The book offers comprehensive advice on problems from infancy to adulthood. Parents describe their reactions and feelings at the time of diagnosis in their own words, and ways of coping at this difficult time with partners, other children, relatives, and friends are suggested. The features of Down's syndrome and its chromosomal basis are discussed. The wide range of developmental progress in Down's syndrome is illustrated, and ways of stimulating the child at different ages are outlined. The recommended guidelines for health maintenance, while not always routine in this country, for example, annual tests for hypothy-

roidism, argue for high standards of general health care. The complications of Down's syndrome, such as congenital heart disease, are well covered, as are behavioural problems and the techniques of behavioural modification.

The chapters of the book which deal with education and services available for children with Down's syndrome are of necessity rather general, as the book is sold in North America and Australia as well as the UK. Assessment, early intervention, and preschool groups are discussed, and parents are advised of the educational options available and of how to ensure that their child receives appropriate schooling.

The final section is concerned with adulthood, dealing with adolescence, sexuality, socialisation, employment, independence, and ageing. The situation in the UK with regard to the civil rights of intellectually disabled adults is compared unfavourably to other countries which have guardianship legislation. Controversial treatments, such as plastic surgery, sensory integration programmes, and diets are sensibly evaluated. The last chapter concerns the management of future pregnancies and the book ends with useful addresses and an index. Although there is no bibliography, other self-help books for parents are recommended in the text.

The book is well written, with clear explanations of technical terms, and is illustrated with diagrams, drawings, and attractive photographs. I would have no hesitation in recommending this book to parents. It should find a place in every special care baby nursery for the use of parents and staff, and in every child development centre, paediatric department, and genetic department.

CHRISTINE GARRETT

Backgrounds of Human Cytogenetics: a Bibliography. James G Garner. (Pp 243.) New York: Long Island University, Confrontation Magazine Press. 1988.

This publication consists simply of a list of references to published articles in human cytogenetics and related disciplines. For the reviewer, at least, there is some merit in this approach, as it presents a rather simpler task than would be otherwise be the case!

The bibliography is arranged into 10

sections which include: a historical perspective; the chemistry and morphology of the chromosome; techniques; chromosome function; chromosomes in division; a general section on nomenclature, chromosome variability, and abnormality; clinical cytogenetics; and chromosomes in evolution. The last section is a list of books and periodicals from which most of the references have been gleaned. The sections are extensively subdivided so that specific references may be located more easily. For example, the clinical cytogenetics section is subdivided into abnormalities of sex chromosomes, abnormalities of autosomes, spontaneous abortions, chromosomes and cancer, chromosome damaging agents, prenatal diagnosis, and genetic counselling. Most sections begin with more general publications to introduce the reader to the subject. In each subsection the references are arranged in alphabetical order.

I found the overall arrangement satisfactory and the bibliography is undoubtedly an easy way to get into the literature quickly and should be a useful aid for those new to the field and students. However, there does appear to be a preponderance of older references, possibly at the expense of more recent ones. The author admits that the list is selective, but the basis for omitting some good articles was not entirely clear to me. In addition, the assignment of some references to subsections seems a bit arbitrary at times. The inclusion of articles on dicentric X chromosomes and fragile X under chromosome polymorphism, together with similar errors involving autosomes, is perhaps indicative of lax editing or even incomplete knowledge of the subject. Some replication of references is also evident. Furthermore, the main value of a bibliography, in my experience, is to obtain ready access to recent publications. Indeed, the author recognises this, in that annual updates are planned. Nevertheless, the main body of the bibliography contains references only up to 1986; more recent papers up to 1988 are included in a large supplement, which curiously includes some much older references. This arrangement, which may well be because of factors beyond the control of the author, detracts somewhat from the practical value of the book.

Clearly this publication would be a valuable addition to the departmental library. As a means of information