that much of the data will be carried forward to the XII IHW to be held in Europe in 1996; as such, a personal rather than library copy would be advantageous.

PHILIP A DYER

Catalog of Prenatally Diagnosed Conditions. 2nd edition. David D Weaver. (Pp 415; $47.00.) Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 1992.

To avoid disappointment, read the title carefully. The book is essentially two cross referenced lists. The first list occupies 278 pages and is of conditions diagnosed prenatally and published. There are 601 of them and they are subdivided into chromosomal anomalies, congenital malformations, deformations, and disruptions, dermatological disorders, fetal infections, haematological disorders and haemoglobinopathies, inborn errors of metabolism, tumours and cysts, and 'other prenatal conditions'. Each entry lists the abnormal prenatal findings reported with that condition and relevant citations. Some entries also include brief notes and comments by the author. The reference section which follows contains 1848 references. The index (54 pages) includes the second list, that of abnormal findings. Thus, it is possible to look up the conditions in which a given prenatal finding, such as hydrops fetalis (71 entries), hydrocephalus (47 entries), or club foot (11 entries), has been reported.

While a catalogue approach to prenatal diagnosis is attractive, the method adopted seems excessively pedantic. It may be obvious that condition X could be diagnosed by method Y, but if that finding has not been published, it will not appear. On the other hand, much of the book is of mainly historical interest. For example, 43 separate prenatal findings are documented under 'spina bifida cystica', and the entry covers four sides, but there are only eight lines of discussion to clarify which of these many findings are likely to be the most useful in practice. The rigid layout results in entries based on single cases and findings of dubious importance occupying an inordinate amount of space. An authoritative and critical abstract for each condition would help to orientate the reader and give the book a more personal flavour.

There are inconsistencies in the terminology, for example, Down syndrome is listed under D, other trisomies under T, Klinefelter syndrome is under K, triple X under 'Chromosome XXX syndrome', XXYY syndrome under X, Turner syndrome under T, and 45,X/48,XXYY mosaicism under 4. This is a minor criticism, but it adds to the irritation produced by the book's inflexible approach and its air of encyclopaedic authority.

Although it may be useful as a survey of prenatal diagnosis publications up to 1991, this is not an ideal source of information when advising families about a pregnancy. It is doubtful whether the format is appropriate for a practical reference book in such a rapidly moving field.

N R DENNIS

Methodology for Genetic Studies of Twins and Families. Michael C Neale, Lon R Cardon. (Pp 496; £99.00.) London: Kluwer Academic Publishers. 1992.

This book deals with the analysis of twin and family data by model fitting, mainly using the computer package LISREL. This is a widely used package for structural equation modelling which has recently been taken up particularly by quantitative geneticists.

The first few chapters focus on basic genetics and statistics before moving on to explanations of model fitting. The first five chapters are fairly clear and although chapters 6 and 7 are difficult for non-mathematicians, the authors do say that the contents of these two chapters can be skipped. However, for those unfamiliar with LISREL, the assimilation of chapter 8 is crucial in order to understand the successive chapters and to comprehend the LISREL scripts. The remaining chapters deal with the application of LISREL to univariate and multivariate genetic analyses and become progressively more difficult, so that the last few chapters are hard to follow for those unfamiliar with LISREL.

The positive aspects of this book are that the beginning chapters start from scratch and allow for the reader having little previous experience in this field. The chapter on matrix algebra is particularly clear. Although on first glance this book looks very mathematical, if followed carefully and in order, the authors take the reader logically through each step. Thus with perseverance, most explanations can be followed by those with little mathematical expertise. In addition, the inclusion of real twin data to illustrate the different types of model is very helpful.

The main criticism of the book is that the title suggests more than the book actually gives. The book is primarily focused on the LISREL program and its applications. LISREL scripts are incorporated into each chapter. Thus it consists of a specific introduction to the uses and methods of LISREL in analysing data, rather than a general text on the analysis of twin data.

In conclusion this book is not suitable as general reading for those who want an introduction to analysing twin data. It is too specific, requires too much perseverance and motivation to work through, and may be offputting to a novice. However, it is likely to be useful and of great interest to those who are specifically planning to learn how to use LISREL. More experienced quantitative geneticists, who are non-LISREL users, will also find it useful as an overview.

ANITA THAPAR

NOTICE

International consortium on X linked myotubular myopathy. Call for information on patients and families

At a meeting of interested groups in March 1993 organised by the European Neuromuscular Centre, an international consortium has been formed to further the clinical, pathological, and molecular understanding of this rare disorder, and to form a resource of information and material available for research. The consortium would welcome information on any present or future patients and families, and will be happy to arrange for preservation of cell lines for molecular genetic studies and muscle for culture and special studies or biopsy material. Any clinician wishing to share such material or to obtain further information about the activities of the consortium should contact the coordinator: Dr Carina Wallgren-Pettersson, Department of Clinical Genetics, University of Helsinki, Haartmaninkatu 2B, SF-00290 Helsinki, Finland. Fax: 358-0-471-6089.

NOTICE

European Research Conferences

The following European Research Conferences will be held. 'Molecular Biology of Cellular Interactions: Adhesions Molecules'. Chairman: J A Williams (London), San Feliu de Guixols, Spain, 23–28 October 1993. 'Genetics and Structures of Animal Viruses'. Chairman: W Doerfler (Cologne), Mont Sainte-Odile (near Strasbourg), France, 22–27 October 1993. 'Inherited Disorders and their Genes in Different European Populations'. Chairman: A de la Chapelle (Helsinki), Obernai, France, 26–30 November 1993. For further details contact the Office of European Research Conferences, European Science Foundation, 1 quai Lezay-Marnésia, 67080 Strasbourg Cedex, France. Tel: (33) 88 76 71 35. Fax: (33) 88 36 69 87.

NOTICE

French Society of Human Genetics

The first annual meeting of the French Society of Human Genetics will be held on 15 December 1993 at Hôpital des Enfants Malades in Paris. The scientific programme includes three sessions on: Usefulness and Difficulties of Linkage Analysis in Human Genetics, Genomic Imprinting, and Unstable Expansion of Trinucleotide Repeats. We are soliciting submissions for oral presentations and posters. If you wish to present your research at this meeting, please send an abstract not later than 3 November 1993 to Professor Claude Stoll. For more information, contact Professor Claude Stoll, Institut de Puériculture, Service de Génétique Médicale, 23 rue de la Porte de l'Hôpital, 67091 Strasbourg Cedex, France. Tel: (33) 88.16.10.12. Fax (33) 88.16.13.30.