are inherited; the antisera produced have, however, some heterospecificity. As specific sera become more generally available and more numerous there should be much clarification of present understanding of the nature and amount of antigenic variations and many of the interpretative problems familiar from red blood cell group serology will be resolved. At present the medical importance of these variations is not well understood and there are no indications as to how the polymorphisms are maintained.

A. C. Stevenson


This is the second of the Oxford monographs on medical genetics to appear, the first being the reprint of Garrod's Inborn Errors of Metabolism, with a supplement by Professor H. Harris. The series is planned to follow J. A. F. Roberts' Introduction to Medical Genetics and systematically cover the genetics of the various bodily systems. The main structure of the book is anatomical, starting with diseases of the mouth and ending with those of the colon; but there is also an introductory chapter on physiology, and final chapters on the liver, general disorders with gastro-intestinal presentation and gastro-intestinal haemorrhage. This anatomical and clinical approach works well and is familiar to the medical practitioner. It means passing from conditions where the genetics are complex, such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, to diseases which are simply inherited, such as multiple polyposis of the colon, and back again. This will be confusing to those who know little genetics, but should not trouble those who have read Dr. Roberts' introduction.

Dr. McConnell is to be commended for recording what is known of the genetics of many conditions, even where this knowledge is meagre. It is useful to the research worker to know where the gaps lie. He has dealt in great detail with the association of blood groups and disease, and lists for example the findings in 71 separate series of carcinoma of the stomach, and controls, from almost all over the world. In 55 of these there was a significant excess of group A among patients and in only 2 a considerable deficiency. It is interesting to see how often the author is led to suggest that the genetic predisposition to a particular disease is polygenic.

C. O. Carter


After an excellent introduction to genetics by Professor G. G. Wendt there follow 13 chapters with all inherited cutaneous and endocrinological diseases. For the sake of clarity and interest many other relevant diseases which are not known to be inherited are also discussed where appropriate. All the chapters are written by experts in the field and some of them constitute quite excellent monographs. It is difficult to single out any one of them for special praise. Chromosome abnormalities are fully and clearly dealt with by Dr. Hans Niermann. An excellent account of disorders of carbohydrate, fat, and protein metabolism is followed by a complete chapter on nails and hair. Professor Schnyder, one of the editors of this volume, has written articles on bullous disorders, on cutaneous vascular and lymphatic diseases (perhaps the best chapter in the book) and, with Dr. Klunker, on the dyskeratoses. The second of these chapters is supplemented by a lucid and complete description of angiokeratoma corporis diffusum by Dr. David Wise, which really completes the review of this subject. Dr. Helen Curth's article on inherited anomalies of pigmentation is clear and authoritative, as one would expect.

One of the most difficult problems that this book surmounts is caused by the multiplicity of titles, many of them eponymous, that one meets in many rare diseases. The very full index helps in this respect. Another problem in such a large book is to avoid duplication and contradiction but so far as one can see the editors of this volume, Professor H. A. Gottron and Professor U. W. Schnyder, have succeeded in welding these excellent monographs into a comprehensive whole so that they have produced the most complete volume of its kind in print. Quite apart from the excellence of its text and index, the abundant comprehensive references at the end of each chapter and referred to in the index would alone make this indispensable as a reference book to the serious student.

The publishers have done a great service in bringing out this volume.

O. L. S. Scott


The authors have attempted to answer the following questions, using data gathered from Hawaii over the period 1958–66: (1) What are the genetic effects of outcrossing in man on the first generation hybrids? (2) Do human populations represent co-adapted genetic combinations that are disrupted after the first generation of outcrossing?

The principal variables studied are the frequencies of post-neonatal infant deaths, neonatal deaths, and stillbirths, together with other traits recorded on birth certificates, including sex, multiple births, weight, and congenital malformations. Ancillary investigations have provided information on adult weight and height.

Of all human populations, the one on Hawaii is one of the most suitable for the complex analysis involved in

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