

Page 89: 'In case 11 535 the mother had several abortions before the birth of the patient. This may indicate that she has mosaicism in her gonadal tissue involving cells with a G_1/G_1 or G_1/G_2 translocation.'

Page 91: 'The patient 812 is sex chromatin positive and her sexual development is normal. The C chromosome involved in the translocation is therefore presumably an autosome and not an X chromosome.'

Page 98: 'It appears that acrocentric chromosomes with enlarged short arms are not always associated with disease, though most cases have been ascertained through patients with congenital disorders. Most evidence favours the conception that acrocentric chromosomes with enlarged short arm are not normal variants occurring sporadically in the human population, but represent chromosomal aberrations, which may lead to pathological conditions.'

Each of these statements is basically incorrect and indicates that the author has very little idea concerning the theoretical background of his subject, or alternatively has chosen to ignore much of the cytogenetic literature of the past six years.

In Table 16, the author lists types of translocation found in man according to the chromosome or chromosome groups involved. It is, however, confusing that the author has felt it necessary to list each translocation twice, so that for instance a 1/C translocation appears both under chromosome No. 1 and under the C group entry.

As a book reporting some additional data on chromosome studies in Down's syndrome and congenital malformation it has some value; as a theoretical dissertation on chromosome translocation in man it has little. One always hesitates before writing a review of this nature on a monograph which is presumably published to conform to the Scandinavian doctoral regulations. In the present case there is little to commend this volume and it is a pity that these regulations do not allow such theses to be decently buried in the archives of a University library rather than thrown to the wolves on the open market. To conclude, the price is high, standards low, the publication as a book unwarranted.

JOHN HAMERTON

Biochemical Genetics, Vol. 1, No. 1. June 1967. (Pp. 71; illustrated + tables. Annual subscription \$18.00.) Plenum Press. New York. 1967.

Biochemical Genetics is a new journal. Published by Plenum Press, New York, and printed in England. The Editor is Charles R. Shaw of Northville, Michigan, and his Associated Editors are one each from Canada, the United States, and Scotland.

The first number consists of 71 pages and contains 6 articles and 2 reports on methods. One of the latter deals with a tetrazolium technique for distinguishing between cultured human fibroblasts with normal levels of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase and those which are enzyme deficient. The other technical article describes a method for estimating the number of amino-acid coding positions in a gene and using cytochrome c as a model.

The articles reflect the wide interests of biochemical genetics. One is concerned with the genetic control of alcohol dehydrogenase isoenzymes in maize, another with an amino acid difference between the human transferrins C and D_{Chl} . D_{Chl} is a transferrin which was discovered in mongoloid races and has only so far been described in such people. Other articles describe studies to examine the quantitative expression of erythrocyte glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency in the Negro, of an enzyme variability in species of the genus *Drosophila*, and genetic and population studies of quantitative levels of adenosine triphosphate in human erythrocytes. There is also an article on the uridylyltransferase activity in cultured human fibroblasts using as a method of assay the incorporation of ^{14}C from $^{14}C_1$ -galactose.

The Advisory Board of the new Journal carries famous international names and there should be every hope for this journal to make a significant contribution to genetics in general and to biochemical genetics in particular.

H. LEHMANN