written by a clinician. Dr. Valentine has largely succeeded in his efforts to write a most readable book on human cytogenetics specifically for a clinical audience. As a result, there is much simplification and a few errors. The book has, however, been completely rewritten and some chapters considerably enlarged—in particular, Chapter 1. This is useful as some background on molecular genetics is essential. The section on the XYY condition is also expanded and is particularly valuable, drawing as it does on Valentine's personal experience with four of these children detected as newborn infants and in particular the difficult problem of what to tell the parents. There is, however, one major criticism; no mention is made anywhere of the international notation for describing chromosome abnormalities which was accepted by an International Conference in Chicago in 1966. This is now accepted and is being used by most major journals and should be known to everyone likely to read the cytogenetic literature. An appendix giving this would have been desirable.

In general the book is well produced and the illustrations good, some of the diagrams may not be as clear as they might have been, but no glaring errors are evident. The book is readable, short enough to be read by a busy clinician and should be compulsory reading for many clinicians who, for the flimsiest of reasons, request karyotypes from their local laboratory; if only a few of these unnecessary requests are eliminated the book will have been justified. The book is a reasonable price and to be recommended to the audience for which it was intended.

JOHN L. HAMERTON

Human Afflictions and Chromosome Abberations. By Raymond Turpin and Jérôme Lejeune. (Pp. x+392; figures+tables. 160s.; $21.00.) Oxford: Pergamon Press. 1969.

This is the long-awaited English translation of the French classic 'Les Chromosomes Humaines'. The French work appeared in 1965, and it is a great pity that apart from one chapter no attempt has been made to bring the present volume up to date. The tremendous volume of work done in the past four years, which is thus omitted, makes this a far less valuable publication than it might have been. However, having said this, it is still valuable to have this classic work available in the English language. It is a pity that more care was not taken with the translation. The English is often clumsy and hard to read, due, in places, to an almost literal translation from the French. The only chapter to be brought up to date is Chapter 13 which deals with monozygotic twins with unlike chromosome complements. This is an interesting phenomenon originally described by Turpin and his co-workers, but is essentially an extension of the principle of non-disjunction followed by uniovular twinning and does not raise any new points of principle. The recent work on the XYY males is not mentioned nor has the bibliography been brought up to date to any degree.

The book is well produced with excellent photographs and diagrams. As it is, it will be a useful addition to the human cytogenetics literature. A little forethought could have made it invaluable.

JOHN L. HAMERTON

Chromosomes and Genes. The Biological Basis of Heredity. (Contemporary Science Paperbacks No. 30.) By P. C. Koller. (Pp. vii+144; 37 figures +19 tables. 7s. 6d.) Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd.

This is an excellent little book aimed at the informed layman and student. It covers, in easily understood language, cytogenetics and cell biology, and is to be recommended to all who wish a closer understanding of these subjects which form the background to the many exciting studies in human heredity covered in the last two chapters.

The author is to be congratulated on the clarity of the presentation of a great deal of complex data in a fairly compact space and in a language that should be understandable to all.

JOHN L. HAMERTON

The Elements of Cytogenetics. (Selected Topics in Modern Biology.) By G. B. Wilson. (Pp. viii+120; figures+tables. 21s.) New York, Amsterdam, London: Reinhold. 1968.

This is a useful little book for students and others requiring a simple and inexpensive text on cytogenetics. The basic principles are clearly covered in the first four chapters.

Chapter 5 deals with alteration in chromosome constitution, while the remaining chapters are concerned with sex determination, chromosome analysis and techniques, and the essentials of chromosome mechanics. This is a useful little book for students requiring a simple basic text in cytogenetics. In view of its importance it is a pity that more examples were not taken from human cytogenetics. This would have even merited a chapter of its own and would have made this book more valuable to the present-day student, particularly as many of the openings in cytogenetics are in this discipline.

JOHN L. HAMERTON

Endocrinopatile Genetice. By St. M. Milcu, C. Maximilian, and B. Ionescu. (Pp. 479; illustrated+tables). Bucarest: Republicii Socialiste Romania. 1968.

This Rumanian treatise on the genetic aspects of endocrine disturbances has been written in the conviction that most endocrinopathies are genetically determined, and that such affections are of outstanding importance clinically. The English reader will appreciate the English summary of 15 pages, the illustrations, and the extensive and full references to the literature. The text covers systematically the different endocrines (though it