Book Reviews

Human Afflictions and Chromosome Aberrations.

This is the long-awaited English translation of the French classic 'Les Chromosomes Humains'. 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 uni-ovular twinning and does not raise any new points of principle. The recent work on the XXY 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 cytogenticits 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, cytogenticics 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


This is a useful little book for students and others requiring a simple and inexpensive text on cyrogeneics. 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 cyrogeneics. In view of its importance it is a pity that more examples were not taken from human cyrogeneics. 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 cyrogeneics are in this discipline.

John L. Hamerton


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