6 months, and 10 months. Analysis of the results shows that the poor muscle tone in such infants improves with age, as judged by palpation, resistance to passive movement, the traction responses, and the effect of tone on posture in prone, sitting, and horizontal suspension. Significant positive correlations existed between marked hypotonia and strabismus at all three examinations. The Moro and primary stepping responses persisted longer than in normal infants: lower limb placing responses, absent in all mongols during the early months, appeared in some 20% by 10 to 12 months. The methods of eliciting and scoring these responses are described concisely, and supported by 55 illustrations with a useful selection of references.

This book is a welcome addition to our knowledge of Down's syndrome, and will be of value to physicians and psychologists undertaking developmental studies on select groups of children.

PETER ROBSON

Fortschritte der allgemeinen und klinischen Humangenetik. Band II. Edited by P. E. Becker, W. Lenz, F. Vogel, and G. G. Wendt. **Die Missbildungen der Arme bei der epidemischen Dysmelie (Thalidomidembryopathie).** By Dietrich Petersen. **Der diastrophische Zwergwuchs.** By Hartmut Walter. (Pp. 109; 7 tables + 45 illustrations. DM.37.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1970.

The second volume in this series of monographs on human genetics is devoted to two review articles: one on malformations of the arm in thalidomide embryopathy and the other on diastrophic dwarfism. In the first of these articles, D. Petersen draws on his own material and on reports from German sources. He classifies the defects in a descending degree of severity: at the one extreme both arms are totally lacking or an arm is represented by nothing more than a rudimentary finger attached to the shoulder, while the mildest defect in the seven listed is an anomaly of the thumb, which shows hypoplasia and triphalangy. The 32 illustrations are particularly helpful.

'*Nanisme diastrophique*' as isolated by Lamy and Maroteaux in 1960 is the subject of an extensive and most helpful review by H. Walter. 'Crooked dwarfism' is a recessive disorder which has many of the features of Morquio's disease, atypical chondrodystrophy, and in particular of achondroplasia with which latter affection it was frequently confused by earlier observers (including Lamy, Frézal, and Maroteaux, who in 1956 recorded a case as one of recessive achondroplasia). Deformities of the ear, cleft palate, anomalous calcification, various hip, knee, and foot deformities, and particularly progressive kyphoscoliosis are, however, characteristic of this form of dwarfism. A full analysis of the published cases is given together with details of 13 cases observed personally and it is clear from the family histories that the affection carries a high infantile mortality.

ARNOLD SORSBY

Human Blood and Serum Groups. By Otto Prokop and Gerhard Uhlenbruck. Translated by J. L. Raven. (Pp. xvi + 891; 163 figures + 243 tables. 315s.) London: Maclaren and Sons. 1969.

This large and expensive book is probably the most comprehensive so far produced on the subject of blood groups. Not only do the authors deal with the genetic and serological characteristics of the groups of both red and white cells, but they also deal with their medico-legal aspects and the relationships of blood groups to disease. In addition, a very large section of the book (170 pages) is devoted to the chemistry of the blood groups' substances, and the inherited groups detected in serum also receive considerable attention.

The authors have tried to incorporate in one volume what has formerly been the subject matter of several books. Even though it is useful to have one volume with such a wide spectrum, the result can be that none of the aspects are dealt with adequately. In this book, the section on the chemistry of the blood group substances is its best feature. In many of the other sections the treatment is too superficial to be of much value other than as a source of references for further reading.

The authors have tried to steer a middle course between the Rh nomenclature of Fisher-Race and that of Wiener, and, in fact, both nomenclatures are used. The result is that, to be fully comprehensible, the reader has to understand both nomenclatures, thus limiting the usefulness of the section on Rh to a highly-specialized minority, who will already be fully conversant with what is in the section.

The section on blood groups and disease takes 32 pages, and is thus one of the longest reviews of the subject. It is largely taken up with detailed criticisms of the more ridiculous associations that have been claimed. This leads the authors to a general condemnation of the whole subject. Very little space is given to the few firmly-based relationships, and only one paragraph and a table is given to the relationship with duodenal ulcer, the well-established relationship with non-secretor receiving only cursory mention. The authors find it 'interesting that there have been no definite counter-arguments disputing the increased incidence of O in duodenal ulcer subjects'. The main value of the chapter on blood groups and disease is the very full discussion on the possible relationships with various infections. Most of the research in this field has been carried out in Germany, and this review is most useful.

This book is essentially a translation of the second German edition (1966), and this is all too apparent throughout most of the text. It is mainly in the last couple of paragraphs of each chapter that there is reference to later developments. For instance, there is no mention of cytotoxic leucocyte antibodies, and the only reference to the work carried out on the prevention of Rh immunization by giving prophylactic anti-D gamma-globulin is to be found in the last paragraph of the chapter on incomplete antibodies. The work would be considerably out of date if it were not for these additional paragraphs incorporating developments up to 1968.