

A brief introduction to each chapter considers older drugs that have been used for the same general purposes and relates them to newer agents. The volume illustrates the value of the official names of drugs, without the use of which it would be largely unintelligible.

Unlike many American medical publications, the price is extremely moderate considering the great quantity of useful, practical information it conveys. This is a good book, and can be unreservedly recommended to the practising physician.

DERRICK DUNLOP.

## Frequency of Chromosomal Variation

**Chromosome Studies in Adults.** By W. M. Court Brown, Karin E. Buckton, Patricia A. Jacobs, Ishbel M. Tough, E. V. Kuenssberg, and J. D. E. Knox. (Pp. 91+v; illustrated. 32s. 6d.) London: Cambridge University Press. 1966.

Structural variations such as translocations, inversions, and deletions in the karyotypes of phenotypically normal patients have been recognized by cytogeneticists. Until now there have been no data on the frequency of these aberrations in a control population, so that the significance of them has been in doubt. In this monograph detailed results of a survey of 438 people over the age of 15 years, drawn from general medical practice lists, as well as data from other groups, are used to give estimates of the frequency of various types of chromosomal variation.

The results of further investigations on

the effect of the subject's age on the degree of aneuploidy found in cultures are also given, and it is emphasized that the time of harvesting of the cultures, and hence the number of cell divisions, is an important factor. Very full details are given on the distribution of chromosome counts in the various groups studied, and extensive family studies with pedigrees are given for those cases with some chromosomal variation in size or structure. It is unfortunate that some of the illustrations do not give as clear a picture of the chromosome anomaly as one would wish.

This is a very valuable monograph which should be studied carefully by all cytogeneticists. It is to be hoped that it will stimulate other laboratories to carry out this kind of survey in order to get as much information about the normal population as possible.

JOHN L. WILKINS.

## Importance of Environment

**Children of Sick Parents.** By Michael Rutter, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. (Pp. 146+x. 45s.) New York, Toronto, and London: Oxford University Press. 1966.

Grandparents, maiden aunts, and grown-up brothers and sisters who used to make their home with the family have abandoned it and gone to live on their own. The "extended family" is dispersing, while the immediate or "nuclear family" is coming more sharply into focus. Fortunately the focus is not exclusively on genetics, with all its tremendous advances, for the family transmits chromosomes and customs. To help unravel the complexities which beset the transmission of

disease the family's way of living is under scrutiny from many different aspects.

Dr. Rutter can make his contribution clear-cut because he sensibly defines and restricts his material. From the sick parents he eliminates minor and borderline cases; he includes only those with mental disorders diagnosed by a psychiatrist, suicides, and those with incapacitating physical illness—recurrent or chronic. A large group of children, attending the Maudsley Hospital because of behavioural or neurotic disturbances, provided the point of entry. One in every five had a mentally ill parent, a proportion three times greater than in the parents of control groups. The same trend, though to a lesser extent, was shown with chronic physical illness or after parental death. Mental and physical illnesses in parents were often associated. For reasons not always apparent, some of the children of sick parents were affected, and some escaped; but younger children were particularly at risk, and the risk was increased when both parents were ill, while siblings were often affected. The children were rather more likely to be aggressive or over-anxious when their parents were mentally ill, more likely to be delinquent when their parents were physically ill.

Dr. Rutter's theme is that one consequence of the impact on the family of parental illness (mental or physical) is psychiatric disorder in the child; and, he argues, environment is more important than heredity. Parental illness is usually the prime factor, but the interreaction between illness in child and parent is two-way; consequently, one could add, it may tend to be self-perpetuating. Much remains to be worked out, but this careful study will give food for thought to those who are interested in preventing illness at the age when it can best be prevented.

JOHN APLEY.

## Books Received

*Review is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.*

**Serum Proteins in Health and Disease.** By Georges Sandor, M.D., D.Sc. (Pp. 768+xiii; illustrated. £12 12s.) London: Chapman & Hall. 1966.

**The Teaching Hospital.** Evolution and Contemporary Issues. Edited by John H. Knowles, M.D. (Pp. 152. 32s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1966.

**Clinical Surgery: Abdomen and Rectum and Anus.** Edited by Charles Rob, M.C., M.Chir., F.R.C.S., Rodney Smith, M.S., F.R.C.S., and Sir Clifford Naunton Morgan, M.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., F.A.C.S.(Hon.). (Pp. 645+xiii; illustrated. £7 15s. £4 10s. per vol. in complete set.) 1966.

**The Common Bile Duct.** By Clarence J. Schein, M.D., Wilhelm Z. Stern, M.D., and Harold G. Jacobson, M.D. (Pp. 290+xiv; illustrated. \$22.50.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1966.

**The Evolution of Medical Education in Britain.** Edited by F. N. L. Poynter. (Pp. 238. 40s.) London: Pitman. 1966.

**Verbrennungs-Fibel.** By Professor W. Hartenbach and Dr. F. W. Ahnefeld. (Pp. 149+xii; illustrated. DM. 17.80.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1967.

**Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research.** No. 45. Edited by Anthony F. DePalma. (Pp. 174+viii; illustrated. 60s.) London: Pitman. 1966.

**Vergleichende Ernährungslehre des Menschen und seiner Haustiere.** Edited by Andreas Hock. (Pp. 968+xxvi; illustrated. £22 1s.) Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1966.

**Forensische Medizin.** By Professor O. Prokop. (Pp. 746+xx; illustrated. £7 14s. 1d.) Berlin: Verlag Volk und Gesundheit. 1966.

**Stedman's Medical Dictionary.** 21st edition. (Pp. 1,836+xlx; illustrated. £5 5s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

**Advances in Pediatrics.** Vol. 14. Edited by S. Z. Levine. (Pp. 307. 87s.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1966.

**The Hospitals Year Book.** 1967. An Annual Record of the Hospitals of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, incorporating "Burdett's Hospitals and Charities," founded 1889. Edited by J. F. Milne, M.C., B.Sc.(Econ.). (Pp. 1,315. 95s.) London: Institute of Hospital Administrators. 1966.

**The Pathology of Limb Ischaemia.** By J. Henry Dible, M.B., LL.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. 100+vii; illustrated. 57s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd. 1966.

**Hormones and Connective Tissue.** Edited by Gustav Asboe-Hansen, M.D. (Pp. 431; illustrated. 103.00 Danish kroner.) 1966.

**History of Psychology.** By Henryk Misiak and Virginia Staudt Sexton. (Pp. 499+x. \$12.50.) New York and London: Grune & Stratton. 1966.

**The Manor House Hospital.** A Personal Record. By Samuel James Woodall, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Pp. 214+x; illustrated. 40s.) London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. 1966.

**Ecology of Parasites.** By N. A. Cross, B.Sc., Ph.D., A.R.C.S. (Pp. 136; illustrated. 18s.) London: Heinemann. 1966.

**Einführung in die Diagnostik und Begutachtung der Siliko-Tuberkulose.** 2nd edition. By Dr. Gustav Sepke. (Pp. 237; illustrated. £3 17s.) Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1966.

**Lehrbuch der Inneren Medizin.** Edited by Professor R. Gross and Professor D. Jahn. (Pp. 1,288+xliv; illustrated. DM. 96.) Stuttgart: F. K. Schattauer. 1966.

**The Faber Pocket Dictionary of Midwifery.** By C. W. F. Burnett, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G. (Pp. 334+xi; illustrated. 10s. 6d.) London: Faber & Faber. 1966.

**Cardiac Pathology.** By Robert Lannigan, M.D., M.C.Path. (Pp. 385+vii; illustrated. £5 15s.) London: Butterworth. 1966.

**Clinical Examination.** 2nd edition. Edited by John MacLeod. (Pp. 587+xii; illustrated. 45s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1967.