

## Book Review

THE CHILD WITH MULTIPLE BIRTH DEFECTS  
M. Michael Cohen, Jr. Raven Press, New  
York, 1982, 189 pp.

There are several useful books available for the delineation of known syndromes. These books, most notably David Smith's *Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformations* and the text coauthored by Dr. Cohen, *Syndromes of the Head and Neck*, are well known and used by most of us. These texts serve a very useful function as a source of information about individual syndromes, but do not serve as a general guide to patient evaluation which is the purpose of the present book. As stated in the preface, "this book is an approach to the patient with multiple anomalies (and is) written for students, residents, fellows, and anyone else who has an interest in syndromology." Its primary purpose is to present the "conceptual and diagnostic aspects of syndromology"; i.e., it is a how-to-do-it book for syndrome identification.

The text reflects the author's broad experience in the field of syndromology. The first chapters deal with basic concepts of syndrome identification, including the important distinctions among malformations, deformations, and disruptions. Subsequently, the book builds on these concepts, and the reader is led in an orderly fashion through

chapters on syndrome prototypes, the nature of syndrome delineation, and the clinical approach to syndrome diagnosis. The remainder of the book is a series of chapters on a broad range of subjects including dysmorphic growth and development, psychosocial aspects of syndromology, and anthropometric aspects. The book concludes with a brief chapter on the statistical definition of associated anomalies and syndromes.

Each chapter is well written and includes many pertinent tables and illustrations. It is difficult to find any significant shortcomings in the book. It is easy to read and quite admirably fulfills its objective. It should certainly be a part of the library of any serious student of clinical dysmorphology. For those just learning dysmorphology, it is an excellent introduction to the concepts of the field and should serve as a basis on which to build and tailor an approach to clinical syndromology. For those with more experience, it is an excellent stimulus to help critically evaluate one's own thinking in this rapidly growing area.

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