

## Book Reviews

Books that appear to be of particular interest to the readers will be reviewed as space permits.

In addition to invited reviews, *Teratology* also encourages reviews of new books from its readers. In the latter instance, books for review would ordinarily, but not necessarily, be selected from the Books Received lists. In such cases the book is to be obtained independently by the reviewer.

If you wish to submit a review, before proceeding please send a letter of intent,

identifying the book in question (title, author, and publisher), to Dr. Frederick R. Bieber, Book Review Editor, Department of Pathology, Brigham & Women's Hospital, 75 Francis St., Boston, MA 02115. Instructions will then be sent to you.

If the book to be reviewed is not listed in the Books Received section of *Teratology*, we may require that you send it to us with your review, but it will of course be returned. *Teratology* reserves the right of final decision on publication.

**THE MALFORMED FETUS AND STILLBIRTH. A DIAGNOSTIC APPROACH.** R.M. Winter, S.A.S. Knowles, F.R. Bieber, and M. Baraitser, John Wiley and Sons, Chichester, 1988, distributed in North America by Alan R. Liss, Inc., New York, 397 pp., \$115.00.

We are at a time in medicine when general autopsy rates have undergone a serious decline. Autopsy rates for stillborn and miscarried fetuses have never been very high, except in a few centers where there are pathologists who express a real interest in such material. Against these trends is an increasing "consumer interest" in matters of reproduction, particularly in the whys of pregnancy loss and the risks of recurrence in future pregnancies. Adding to the need for more and better fetal postmortem examinations is what might be described as quality control for the new prenatal diagnostic technologies. The classic works of perinatal pathology such as Potter and Craig's *Pathology of the Fetus and the Infant* are rather dated at this time and lack information on the majority of syndromes, genetic and teratogenic, and malformation sequences, field defects, and associations that have been described in recent years.

The *Malformed Fetus and Stillbirth* is an attempt to provide a framework for the anatomic pathologist to deal effectively with fetal material to supply information to the clinician and parents that will be useful in reproductive counseling. The first section of the book provides general background

information on pregnancy loss and its known causes. The second section deals with the techniques of examination, needed equipment, and specimen collection. While these two sections are quite short they are loaded with useful information and should not be glossed over by the reader. By following the authors' suggestions, the general anatomic pathologist should be able to perform a credible and creditable examination and may even find it as interesting an experience as the perinatal specialists do.

The real meat of the book comes in the third section, which deals with specific defects by organ system or body region. It also contains material on the phenomena associated with twinning, fetal hydrops, infections, and prenatal diagnosis. This section, too, filled with useful information including definitions and ample illustrations of malformations and other structural anomalies. A very nice feature is the inclusion of lists of conditions that feature the abnormality under discussion. Such lists are available in several dysmorphology texts, but it saves time to have such memory joggers at hand in a pathology text. Throughout this section there are references to pertinent literature for further information. The references are by no means encyclopedic but they are usually well chosen and sufficient to the needs of the enquiring but busy pathologist.

The fourth and final section of the book deals with nonchromosomal multiple anomaly syndromes. This really is an alphabetical listing of syndromes (and many nonsyn-

dromes) described in one short paragraph followed by one to three references to the literature. The listing is quite idiosyncratic. A number of the conditions could not be diagnosed until well after the fetal-neonatal period and thus seem unnecessary to include in this book. This fourth section is clearly the least useful; it is far more informative to pursue diagnostic possibilities suggested in the third section by using those references or by using more detailed and encyclopedic works such as Jones's new edition of Smith, McKusick's catalog, and the Birth Defects Compendium.

The book closes with an appendix of normal measurements. While certainly not the authors' fault, the usefulness and precision of some of this information is not timely. For example, the organ weight data from Potter and Craig have standard deviations that are clearly excessive for the purpose of describ-

ing "normal." The many graphs reprinted from Sivan's work have single ordinates and abscissas that make it hard to locate a particular point on the graph with any accuracy. The information presented is, however, better than nothing.

The first three sections of this book make its ownership worthwhile for anyone involved in the postmortem examination of the fetus and neonate. The experienced perinatal pathologist will be able to find a few statements to quibble with but will also find new information and ample reminders of forgotten information. The publisher has elected to attach a rather hefty price tag; if a personal copy is not in the budget, a lab or service copy is a must.

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#### PRENATAL DIAGNOSIS OF CONGENITAL ANOMALIES.

R. Romero, G. Pilu, P. Jeanty, A. Ghidini, and J.C. Hobbins, Appleton and Lange, East Norwalk, CT, 1988, 466 pp., \$89.50.

According to the authors of this book, this work was born out of a clinical need to make obstetrical management decisions after the ultrasonographic diagnosis of anatomic anomalies in the unborn fetus. With the rapidly increasing use of ultrasound imaging during pregnancy, and increasing sophistication of the equipment allowing greater resolution, the authors realized that they had the opportunity to pool their experience, case material, and efforts to write a book for the practicing sonographer and obstetrician. Their efforts have resulted in success.

The book itself is physically appealing, with high-quality paper, a strong binding, and an attractive cover. It is organized by organ systems into chapters that provide information about the frequency, etiology, genetic basis, pathology, associated anomalies, diagnosis, natural history, and obstetrical management of hundreds of anomalies that may be detected using current sonographic imaging equipment and methods. Each section is full of high-quality scans, drawings, clinical photographs, and tables of useful data. A list of references to the

primary literature is included for each disorder considered. Ten appendices provide tables of various relevant measurements for estimating gestational age and fetal weight. The first appendix lists common drugs and chemicals that have been described in association with fetal anomalies. The book ends with a combined author and subject index.

Although organized in many ways like the classic *Smith's Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformation* (W.B. Saunders, 1988), this book is more difficult to use. This is due, in part, to the fact that the authors did not choose to order anomalies alphabetically within each section. Despite the inclusive listing of anomalies (with page numbers) at the beginning of each section, I found myself doing an excessive amount of page flipping to find and compare data on two or more anomalies. Moreover, the authors have chosen some peculiar or idiosyncratic names for phenotypes which make it difficult for an experienced reader to find information. For example, in the section on skeletal dysplasias, fibrochondrogenesis comes after thanatophoric dysplasia and before atelosteogenesis. Achondroplasia comes much later in the chapter not under achondroplasia, but under the heading "Heterozygous Achondroplasia." Next, I tried to find a discussion of the well-known anomaly "acardia." The subject index di-