

Book Reviews

Probleme der Molekularen und Allgemeinen Biologie der Zelle

Bei Pfister Cl. Verhandlungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft für experimentelle Medizin, Band 16, 3. Tagung (1966). Verlag Volk und Gesundheit, Berlin, 1967.

Nach der Besprechung des russischen Buches von N. P. Dubinin über Molekular-Genetik in dieser Zeitschrift sei auf die bei der 3. Gesamttagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für experimentelle Medizin vom 20. bis 22. Mai 1966 in Leipzig vorgetragene Referate über die Morphologie und Biochemie der Zelle, die Physiologie und Pharmakologie der erregbaren und kontraktile Strukturen, über Nervensystem und Muskulatur unter dem Gesichtspunkt der molekularen und allgemeinen Biologie der Zelle, sowie über die Funktion der Leber unter dem Gesichtspunkt der molekularen und allgemeinen Biologie der Zelle besonders hingewiesen.

Die Themen dürften unter den Lesern dieser Zeitschrift nicht nur die Cytogenetiker, sondern auch die Kliniker und Erbpathologen wegen der zunehmenden Bedeutung von Zellstoffwechselproblemen für das Zusammenkommen genetischer Erkrankungen, ihrer Umweltabhängigkeit und ihrer Beeinflussbarkeit in therapeutischer und prophylaktischer Hinsicht in hohem Masse interessieren. Das im Rotaprintdruck erschienene Buch kann über den Verlag bezogen werden.

HANS GREBE

Lo studio dei cromosomi umani

(Study of human chromosomes)

By A. Galimberti and G. Riggio. Cappelli Editore, 1966. Bound volume. 17×24 cm. 199 pages. 38 illustrations. Lit. 4500 (\$ 7 approx.).

After an introductory part of historical, theoretical and technical interest on chromosomes in general and their methods and techniques

of study in man, the Authors thoroughly review chromosomal pathology.

First, the mechanism of chromosome number or structure anomalies, and then the single aberrations are examined: congenital aberrations of sex chromosomes, congenital aberrations of autosomes, and acquired chromosomal abnormalities.

Finally, the possible etiological factors are examined.

A list of some 1000 references completes this useful contribution to the study of human chromosomes and their pathology.

Familial interrelatedness in a Swedish rural population

By E. Essen-Möller. S. Karger - Basel, New York, 1967. Supplementum ad «Acta Genetica et Statistica Medica», Vol. 17. vi + 77 pages with 1 diagram and 41 tables. 17.5 × 25 cm. Price not indicated. (Free of charge to subscribers of the Journal).

This booklet describes an investigation aimed to establishing, up to a certain degree of relationship (1/32), the total general consanguinity prevailing in a geographically limited population on one particular day (July 1, 1947). The population under study, comprising 2 550 inhabitants of a general rural area of South Sweden, is the same used in two previous psychiatric studies (Essen-Möller, 1954: Individual traits and morbidity in a Swedish rural population; and Hagnell, 1966: A prospective study of the incidence of mental disorders), so that a further study has already been planned, in order to interpret the psychiatric findings on the basis of the present genealogic study.

Therefore, besides calculating the inbreeding coefficient ($F = 6-7 \times 10^{-4}$) and the coefficient of relationship ($R = 13 \times 10^{-3}$, for all types of consanguineous mating up to and including

degree 1/32), the genealogic findings are presented as such, establishing their relationship with such factors as age, sex, marital state, occupational group, birth place, residence (within the area) and migration.

Die Untersuchung und Behandlung des Kinderlosen Ehepaares

(Study and treatment of the sterile couple)

By Georg Silló-Seidl. J. F. Lehmanns Verlag-München, 1967. Brochure. 15×22 cm., 124 pages, including 6 coloured and 64 black-and-white illustrations and 25 tables. Price not indicated.

This booklet is divided into two main parts, general and special.

The general part gives a definition (the unvoluntarily sterile couple is defined as such, when « after two years of endeavours, both partners being in the procreative age, the couple still has no offspring ») and some statistical and general considerations on Sterility (approximate frequency: 10% of the married couples).

The special part includes four main chapters, the first two devoted to the study of the husband (endocrinological studies, biopsies, X-ray seminography) and his treatment, and the second two to the study of the wife (endocrinological, gynaecological and laboratory studies, control of ovulation and of tubes, cervical factors) and her treatment.

Two more chapters are devoted to extragenital factors and their treatment, and to artificial insemination.

Obstetrics: some current problems

Edited by S. G. Clayton. British Medical Bulletin, 24, 1, 1968. Medical Department of the British Council, London. 98 pages; tables and illustrations. 28×22 cm. £ 2 (\$ 6.50).

Introduced by Professor T.N.A. Jeffcoate (Chairman of the Committee which planned this number of the Bulletin), here is a collection of authoritative essays on the following sub-

jects of fundamental importance in Obstetrics and Welfare:

Prophylaxis of Rhesus iso-immunization (C. A. Clarke);

Folate metabolism and reproduction (Bryan M. Hibbard and Elisabeth D. Hibbard);

Water and electrolytes in pregnancy (F. E. Hytten and A. M. Thomson);

Cardiovascular dynamics in pregnancy and labour (Melville G. Kerr);

Diabetes and latent diabetes in pregnancy (A. D. Wright, H. G. Dixon and G. F. Joplin);

Coagulation failure in obstetrics (J. S. Scott);

Jaundice in pregnancy (Sheila Sherlock);

Asymptomatic bacteriuria during pregnancy (R. W. Beard and A. P. Roberts);

Renal failure of obstetric origin (Kinsey Smith, J. C. McClure Browne, R. Shackman and O. M. Wrong);

Pituitary necrosis (H. L. Sheehan and J. C. Davis);

Ultrasonics in obstetrics (Ian Donald);

Placental insufficiency (E. David Morris);

Obstetric anaesthesia and analgesia (J. E. Utting and T. Cecil Gray);

Maternal mortality in Britain (Roma N. Chamberlain).

Maladies héréditaires du métabolisme chez l'enfant

(Malattie ereditarie del metabolismo nel bambino).

Di M. Lamy, P. Royer, J. Frézal, J. Rey. Masson & Cie., Seconda Edizione, Parigi 1968. Volume rilegato. 16×24 cm. Testo di 451 pagine con 119 illustrazioni e un indice analitico degli argomenti trattati. Prezzo non indicato.

I dieci anni trascorsi dalla prima edizione di questo volume, nel 1959, sono così densi di progresso scientifico da far agevolmente comprendere come ci si trovi in realtà non di fronte ad una riedizione, sia pure adeguatamente aggiornata, ma ad un'opera quasi completamente nuova.

Il settore in cui si colloca l'opera del professor Lamy e dei suoi Collaboratori è dal 1966