

quency. As a matter of fact, the frequency of a twin birth being by and large of 1/80, there will be one twin every forty individuals, one twin or parent of twin every twenty, and so on, with the practical result that almost everyone has a twin, or twins in his family.

Practically everyone is therefore interested in twins, either for scientific reasons or simple curiosity and/or direct concern. And, strange as it may appear, when dealing with twins scientific data may be of interest to the layman, and curiosities and anecdotes to the scientist.

These are but some of the reason's why this new book by Amram Scheinfeld, the author of many publications on human heredity for the general reader, may be welcomed.

In «Twins and Supertwins» the subject of multiple-born is dealt with on the basis of original data and detailed accounts on their origin and birth, different types, frequency, and special problems related to education, individual and pair-psychology, family and social environment, physical and mental traits, health and sickness, etc.

Nicely illustrated with numerous charts and drawings by the Author himself, completed by analytical lists of references and well presented by the Publisher, although especially written for the layman, the book is recommended to all who are interested in twins.

The placenta in twin pregnancy

By S. J. Strong and G. Corney Pergamon Press - Oxford, 1967. Bound volume with jacket. XVI-134 pages. 34 coloured and 52 black-and-white illustrations. 16 tables. 18×24 cm. £ 5 5s. (\$ 14.00 approx.).

As Dr. J. Chassar Moir puts it, in his foreword to this book, "It is a curious fact that a happening so remarkable as the occurrence of a twin pregnancy should, hitherto, have attracted but little serious attention from obstetricians. Every student knows ... that there are uniovular and multiovular twins; but here the interest usually wanes, and questions

that could delve deep into the secrets of genetics are left unasked or are heedlessly brushed aside".

This recent book by Drs. Strong and Corney now provides an account of the problems related to twin placentation and pregnancy, which is of particular interest for physiologists and geneticists, and of direct concern to obstetricians.

The place of twins and twin placenta in myth, history and science is first examined as an introduction. Once modern conceptions stressed, and old beliefs swept away, developmental aspects, i.e. the main ontogenic stages, and the frequency of the different types of twinning are reviewed. The central part of the work is then concerned with the examination of twin placentae and of the vascular communications in both types, mono-chorial or dichorial.

The mass of information provided and the beautiful colored plates, make this book highly recommended to everyone interested in twin research, and especially to obstetricians.

Abnormal hemoglobins in human populations - A summary and interpretations

By Frank B. Livingstone. Aldine Publishing Company - Chicago, 1967. Bound volume with jacket of XII-476 pages including 24 figures and 4 tables. 15×24 cm. \$ 12.50.

The last few years have witnessed a tremendous trend in researches concerned with the inheritance, biochemistry and distribution of human abnormal hemoglobins. Furthermore, the possibility of applying to these, as well as to many other such traits ever more refined computer models of population genetics, while granting new possibilities of analysis, may also give us new insights into human population and evolution studies.

This is well demonstrated by Dr. Livingstone's book, which is a compilation of the frequencies of the abnormal hemoglobins, thalassemia and the glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency in the world's population.

The data published by some 800 works up

to 1966 are covered, concerning populations of Eastern Asia and the Pacific; India, Tibet, Pakistan and Ceylon; the Middle East and Europe; North and West Africa; Central and East Africa, and the Americas, for a total of some 125 regions (listed in the Appendix).

Single chapters are devoted to population genetics and selection. The frequencies of abnormal hemoglobins are analyzed in their relation to malaria and interpreted in terms of selection pressures. The genetic theory of balanced polymorphism is further developed.

Well written and printed, although some goodwill is necessary for the interpretation of the geographical maps, this book may be recommended to geneticists, anthropologists and hematologists.

Race and modern science

By Robert E. Kuttner et al. Social Science Press - New York, 1967. Bound volume with jacket of XXX-427 pages. 15×24 cm. \$ 7.95.

Edited by Dr. Kuttner, this is a collection of essays by Anthropologists, Biologist, Sociologists and Psychologists. And it is accordingly divided into four parts.

Part One, on Anthropology, includes the following essays: Race and Anthropology, by B. Lundman; Morphology and the Classification of Race, by J. Czekanowski; Racial Biology of the Bantu of South Africa, by J. D. J. Hofmeyr; Race and the Biological History of Peoples, by I. Schwidetzky.

Part Two, on Biology, includes the following essays: A Study of Racial and Subracial Crossing, by L. Gedda; Race and Heredity, by D. C. Rife; The Races of Man and Human Genetics, by C. P. Oliver; Biochemical Anthropology, by R. E. Kuttner.

Part Three, on Sociology, includes the following essays: Human Society and Genetics, by C. D. Darlington; Race and Sociology, by C. Gini; Evolutionary Theory, Race and Society, by A. J. Gregor; Selective Association of Ethnic Groups, by G. A. Lundberg.

Part Four, on Psychology, includes the

following essays: Race and Culture, by F. Keiter; The Cultural Hypothesis and Psychological Tests, by F. C. J. McGurk; Racial Differences in School Achievement, by R. T. Osborne; Ethnic Groups and the Maze Test, by S. D. Porteus.

These sixteen essays by world's authorities in the various fields provide the book with an actual mine of information which may not only be precious to the specialist but also of interest to the layman.

Chemische Mutagenese an menschlichen Zellen in Kultur. (Chemical mutagenesis in human cells in culture)

By Wolfram Ostertag. Verlag der Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur in Mainz (in Kommission bei Franz Steiner Verlag GMBH, Wiesbaden), 1966. 126 pages, including 34 figures and 32 tables; brochure; 18×25 cm. DM 12. (\$ 3.00 approx.).

This booklet provides a historical sketch of research on mutation and a review of the present status and problems of experimental mutation induced chemically in mammalian and human cell cultures.

Actinomycin D, Proflavine and Anidine, Daunomycine and Cinerubine, Chromomycine A₃, Terramycine, Ethylenimine and Mitomycine, Coffeine and Theophylline are among the principal substances studied in relation to their effects on cell morphology and physiology. Each review is completed by personal research.

This work may prove useful to all geneticists and cytologists interested in the problems of mutation and chemical agents.

Intestinal absorption

Edited by D. H. Smyth. London: British Medical Journal, 23:3, 1967, 95 pages; tables and illustrations; 28×22 cm. £ 1.10 (\$ 3.00 approx.).

The various aspects of intestinal absorption, a subject of great present concern, are carefully examined in the following series of authoritative essays: