the analysis of the developmental stages of germ-cells in mammals and spontaneous mutations, the problems related to radiation induced mutations are examined at the genetic, cytogenetic and population levels. General conclusions are then drawn on the consequences of radiation and mutation in the human species.

Eléments de Génétique Médicale
(*Elements of Medical Genetics*)

By J. M. Robert. Simep Editions - Lyon, 1968. Bound volume; 21×27 cm; 256 pages; 115 black-and-white illustrations and tables. Price not indicated.

Although the naive statement of the preface, that this book " brings the answer " to the questions arised some 30 years ago about " what relation would there exist between Drosophila and man ", might appear to someone a little bit exaggerated, here is, nevertheless, a very valuable book.

In the last few years, an interminable flow has overwhelmed the market with an incredible number of textbooks, in every field; and genetics has certainly not been spared. This apparently absurd trend shows no sign of being on its way to stop, thanks to the larger and larger number of students; to the generally felt cultural pressure, giving rise to ever increasing potential consumers, eager for any kind of organized and possibly summarized information; and, last but not least, to too many status seeking scientists, especially physicians.

The present textbook appears to be rather successful in assembling a large number of relevant and up-to-date information, in a generally clear and nice way, in a limited number of pages. And this is a very good reason to make it different from most other textbooks of the kind and be suggested to all students of the field.

Heredity and Disease

By Ian H. Porter. The Blakiston Division. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York-Toronto-Sydney-London, 1968. XXI+408 pages; numerous tables and black-and-white illustrations. Bound volume; 15×23 cm. Price not indicated.

The book is subdivided into six main chapters: (1) Organs of heredity; (2) Principles of heredity; (3) Units of heredity; (4) Genetic susceptibility; (5) Mutation, and (6) Evolution.

There is no clear-cut distinction between genetic principles and medical practice, both being largely intermingled within each chapter. Genetic methods and techniques are mostly ignored. The aim of providing the medical student with a presentation of genetics *as seen by a clinician* happens to find a hypothec, rather than in what is lacking, in what is apparently excessive, or unfit, as it appears, for instance, in the two chapters on mutation and evolution.

This apparently sharp criticism to a book which certainly has valuable aspects, may possibly be due to the fact that really too many such handbooks are being written in recent years.

Genealogisch-Demographische Untersuchungen über Mikrocephalie in Westfalen
(Genealogic and Demographic Research on Microcephaly in Westphalia)

By G. Koch. Series: Forschungsberichte des Landes Nordhein-Westfalen, No. 1963; Westdeutscherverlag - Köln and Opladen, 1968. Paperback 16 × 24 cm. 118 pages. 30 tables. 46 black-and-white illustrations. Price: DM 69.50 (approx. US $ 20.00).

As Professor Gerhard Koch stresses himself, microcephaly is a problem concerning medicine as a whole, normal and pathologic anatomy and, more specifically, neuroanatomy, as well as anthropology and human genetics. A distinction of the genetic and environmental factors involved is closely related to the knowledge of teratogenic and phenocopy processes, as well as to the data provided by biochemical and karyological genetics.

After introducing the problem both from a historical and etiological point of view, describing the different forms of environmental vs. genetic microcephaly, the results of a

personal research are reported, based on a rather large material, consisting of 319 (114 genetic and 205 environmental) cases of microcephaly and their respective families, mainly collected through the genetic register of the Institute for Human Genetics of the University of Münster.

For the environmental cases, brain damage could be attributed to either pre-, peri- or post-natal factors. For the genetic ones, various factors could be found, among which, especially, hereditary metabolic troubles (enzyme defects).

This booklet will certainly be of interest to clinicians, pathologists and human geneticists, and it is a pity that the use of the German language and the relatively high price will prevent many of them to appreciate it.

Leukocyte Chemistry and Morphology Correlated with Chromosome Anomalies

Edited by Arnold R. Kaplan and Margaret A. Kelsall (Consulting Editors), Peter D. Albertson (Editorial Director) and Marc Krauss (Editor-in-Chief). The New York Academy of Sciences, New York, 1968. Brochure; 15 x 23 cm. 375 pages including numerous tables and black-and-white illustrations. US $ 18.00.

Proceedings of the homonymous conference held by The New York Academy of Sciences on November 3-5, 1966.

The existence of family and community clusters of leukemia and/or other malignancies; the high correlation of increasing maternal age with a number of anomalies (which, rather than confined to Down's syndrome include anencephaly, hydrocephaly, spina bifida as well as miscarriages and stillbirths); the documentation of the induction of chromosome breakage by viruses, as well as by numerous chemical compounds, are among the main facts faced by this Conference, organized with the aim of examining the relations between clinical and pathological, genetic and cytogenetic and biochemical factors of the leukocytes.

Over thirty papers have been given in the course of four main sessions: (1) Chromosome Studies; (2) Leukocytes in Genetic Anomalies; (3) Leukocyte Alkaline Phosphatase; (4) Neutrophils in 21 Trisomy and the Leukemias.

I Resti Ossei Umani delle Necropoli dello Swat (W. Pakistan)

Parte I: Butkara II

(Human Bone Remains from the Swat Necropolises, W. Pakistan)

Part I: Butkara II

By G. Alciati. Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente - Roma, 1967. Series: Reports and Memoirs, Vol. VIII.1. Paperback; 25×34 cm. XI+66 pages; 4 tables + an additional, special one, summarizing anthropological data; original drawings (craniograms); 26 plates of black-and-white illustrations (including 52 photographs of the skulls). Price: L. 4500 (approx. $ 7.00).

In the region of Swat (W. Pakistan), an Italian Archaeological Mission, sponsored by the *Centro Scavi* of the Italian Institute for Middle and Far East, has sofar discovered some 500 graves, organized in a number of necropolises. The latter have been shown to belong to the Assakenoi, or Asvakayana tribe and their allied population, which lived in Swat and the surrounding regions some 3000 years ago.

Butkara II, described in this book, represents a necropolis discovered in the Jambil valley and consisting of some 50 graves, for which a radiocarbon dating has provided the figure of 2425 ± 40 years, corresponding to about 475 b. C. On account of the study of the manufacts, especially pottery, the necropolis may be assigned to the pre-Buddhist age, which is also confirmed by the existence of an overlying Sacred Buddhist Precinct. Later on, when, after the Maurya period, these tribes assimilated the Buddhist and Hindu culture, the tombs disappear, owing to the changes in funerary rites.

The tombs of this necropolis have shown the existence of both semi-cremation and inhumation rites. In a number of them, multiple burials must also have occurred.

A total of 29 individuals could be ex-