

tive matematico-statistiche. L'aprioristica esclusione di tali impostazioni, sottesa sempre da risvolti ideologici di per sé mai condannabili, non può giovare alla comprensione del malato e alla soluzione di problemi preventivi terapeutici e riabilitativi. E l'eventuale accusa di eclettismo va rigettata, poiché rimane sempre l'esigenza, d'accordo con lo stesso Slater, di mettersi da una parte o dall'altra dello stecato.

Roberto Tatarelli

AMINOACIDOPATHIES, IMMUNOGLOBINOPATHIES,
NEURO-GENETICS AND NEURO-OPHTHALMOLOGY

Edited by J. François (Ghent). Proceedings of the 3rd International Congress of Neuro-Genetics and Neuro-Ophthalmology (Brussels 25-29 August 1970). Volume 6 in the series, Monographs in Human Genetics, edited by L. Beckmann and M. Hauge. S. Karger, Basel-München-Paris-London-New York-Sydney 1972. Bound volume; 17 × 23 cm; X + 218 pages; 26 figures and 49 tables. Author index and subject index. Price not indicated.

This is a particular volume in the series, Monographs in Human Genetics, that Drs. Beckmann and Hauge have been editing for over six years now, in that, rather than a monograph, it presents the proceedings of the 3rd International Congress of Neuro-Genetics and Neuro-Ophthalmology, held in Brussels in 1970 under the chairmanship of Professor François.

It was Dr. Ludo van Bogaert's idea to promote the constitution of specific working groups within the World Federation of Neurology. This initiative, started around 1959, proved very successful. And it was then Professor Franceschetti's and Dr. Amalric's idea to start a series of joint congresses of the two groups, neuro-ophthalmology and neuro-genetics. The first congress took place in Albi in 1965 and was very successful. Even much more so was the second congress, held in Montreal in 1967.

The number, interest, and quality of the papers presented in the present proceedings, divided into three sections, amino-acidopathies, immunoglobulinopathies, and neuro-genetics and neuro-ophthalmology, clearly show that this third congress has been largely successful too.

These are very good premises and auspices for those already involved in the organization of the Fourth International Congress of Neuro-Genetics and Neuro-Ophthalmology, (scheduled to be held in Rome in September 1973, and to cover the following main topics: (1) Tapetoretinal degenerations and CNS genetic diseases; (2) Genetic counseling and detection of carriers in neurology; (3) genetics of disorders of nerves and synapses; and (4) Chronogenetics.

THE GENETICS OF HUMAN POPULATIONS

By L.L. Cavalli-Sforza (Pavia, Italy, and Stanford, California) and W.F. Bodmer (Oxford, G.B.). W.H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco 1971. Bound volume; 17 × 24 cm; XVI + 966 pages; 157 tables and 158 illustrations. General references, list of literature cited; author index and subject index. Price: £ 10 (approximately, US \$ 25.00).

This monumental textbook is an attempt to provide "a comprehensive treatment of the genetics of human populations that emphasizes the interpretation of available data in relation to the available theoretical models." Moreover, this is done taking in due consideration the importance that a basic understanding of human population genetics may have in a wide variety of disciplines, such as demography, sociology, psychology, related to both biology and social sciences.

Chapters 1 through 5 deal with general aspects of population genetics: (1) The basic concepts of genetics; (2) Mendelian populations; (3) Deleterious mutations and the estimation of mutation rates; (4) Trans-

ient and balanced polymorphisms; and (5) Polymorphism for blood groups, transplantation antigens, and serum proteins: incompatibility selection. Chapters 6 through 10 deal with specific aspects of human population genetics, with large implications in related fields, such as, e.g., demography: (6) Genetic demography and natural selection; (7) Inbreeding; (8) Population structure; (9) Quantitative characters, polygenic inheritance, and environmental interactions; (10) The sexual dimorphism. The last two chapters, finally, respectively deal with (11) Human evolution and (12) Eugenics, eugenics, and human welfare, and may prove of large interest to social scientists. These twelve chapters are supplemented by three appendices: (1) Statistics and probability; (2) Segregation and linkage analysis in human pedigrees and the estimation of gene frequencies; and (3) Sample problems.

Beautifully produced, although misprints are not too hardly found, this book is not only essential to any human geneticist, but should as well be recommended to general biologists and social scientists.

PROGRESS IN MEDICAL GENETICS — Volume VIII

Edited by A.G. Steinberg (Cleveland, Ohio) and A.G. Bearn (New York, N.Y.). Grune and Stratton, New York and London 1972. Bound volume; 15 × 22.5 cm; VIII + 320 pages, including tables and illustrations. Author index and subject index. Price: US \$ 19.50.

The present volume, no. VIII in this famous series edited by Drs. Steinberg and Bearn with the contributions of leading specialists in the various fields, covers the following topics: (1) Genetic aspects of viral diseases of animals (by F. Fenner); (2) Genes which increase chromosomal instability in

somatic cells and predispose to cancer (by J. German); (3) The future of human population genetics (by N.E. Morton); (4) Enzyme defects (by H.N. Kirkman); (5) Prevention of Rh isoimmunization (by C.A. Clarke); (6) Disorders of ganglioside metabolism (by R.O. Brady and E.H. Kolodny); and (7) The genetics of short stature (by Ch.I. Scott, Jr.). Just like previous volumes in the series, this book is of invaluable help to the medical geneticist, and of general medical and biological interest.

HUMANGENETIK — Ein kurzes Handbuch in fünf Bänden — Band 1/4: Blutgruppen

Human Genetics — A Short Handbook in Five Volumes — Volume 1/4: Bloodgroups

Edited by P.E. Becker (Göttingen). Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart 1972. Collaboration of W. Helmholtz (Heidelberg), F. Schwarzfischer (München), and F. Vogel (Heidelberg). Bound volume with cover; 17 × 24 cm; XII + 572 pages; 96 illustrations and 318 tables. Subject index. Price: DM 248 (approximately, US \$ 83.00).

With this volume, the first part of this monumental handbook, i.e., the one dealing with the genetics of normal human traits, should be completed. (Volume 1/3 is however yet to be published and it is not yet clear what shall differentiate it from the present volume 1/4, its scheduled title appearing to be, « Blood-groups » as well.)

The book is divided into two main parts, the first one dealing with the general aspects and the formal genetics of blood-groups, and the second one dealing with their population-genetic analysis. The latter is followed and supplemented by a very useful appendix of computer tables referring to all studies carried out on possible associations of ABO blood-groups and diseases, in the various countries of the world.