

Book Reviews

Am. J. Hum. Genet. 44:156, 1989

The Malformed Fetus and Stillbirth. R. M. Winter, S. A. S. Knowles, F. R. Bieber, and M. Baraitser. New York: John Wiley & Sons (distributed by A. R. Liss), 1988. Pp. 317. \$115.50.

A formal, detailed, and richly illustrated book devoted entirely to the diagnosis of the malformed fetus and stillborn has been critically needed since a preliminary book on the same subject (*Birth Defects* 15(5A): 1-204, 1979) was generated from a portion of the 1978 Birth Defects meeting in San Francisco. This need has been amply filled by doctors Winter and Baraitser, who are clinical geneticists, and doctors Knowles and Bieber, who are pathologists. Their book is comprehensive and succinct, and contains many clinical photographs, useful tabulations, and normative data. It is well organized into five sections covering causes and prevalence of malformed fetuses and stillborns, diagnostic approaches, assessment of specific anomalies, listing of nonchromosomal multiple anomaly syndromes, and an appendix of tables and graphs of normal fetal parameters.

The quality of the 27 chapters is relatively uniform, although chapter 5 ("Clinicopathological Meeting and Genetic Counselling") and chapter 16 ("Abnormalities of the Gastrointestinal System") are unnecessarily brief and incomplete. Particularly strong chapters include the pathological examination of the infant (chapter 8), craniofacial abnormalities (chapter 11), malformations of the central nervous system (chapter 12), limb defects (chapter 20), and lethal neonatal bone dysplasias (chapter 21). Coverage of infants of diabetic mothers is minimal and needs significant expansion in future editions. Findings on prenatal ultrasound of malformed fe-

tuses need to be correlated with posttermination and/or post-birth clinical findings in future editions.

Section IV (chapter 27), which is basically an alphabetical listing of nonchromosomal multiple congenital anomaly syndromes, each with a brief one-paragraph description and one to six references, primarily serves as a citation and information source for all the entities tabulated or mentioned in previous sections. It is too extensive for the purpose of the book and it is not accompanied by any photographs. This is a reflection of the authors' attempt to be too inclusive in their tabulations of syndromes associated with malformations of fetuses and stillborns.

This fine book would serve well anyone who comes across malformed fetuses or stillborns with any regularity. Obviously, obstetricians, pediatricians, pathologists, and clinical geneticists, and fellows training in those disciplines, would benefit most from its availability, but general practitioners, family practitioners, and nurses will also find it useful. As a diagnostic concept, medical students and house staff should be aware of the book's content and should be encouraged to peruse it.

This is a pivotal book much in the same way David W. Smith's book, *Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformation*, was for budding and erstwhile dysmorphologists. A new heterogeneous discipline is going to use this book as its bible.

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