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Notice

Symposium on the Pathology of Pregnancy

The Royal College of Pathologists are holding a symposium on the pathology of pregnancy on 12 and 13 February 1976, at the Royal College of Physicians. The following subjects will be covered in the two-day meeting. Fetoplacental function: its nature and assessment; haematological problems; hypertension and renal disease; infections; trophoblastic tumours; and congenital abnormalities.

The symposium is open to workers in all disciplines connected with the subject. The registration fee is £12 (sterling), which includes coffee, lunch, and tea on the two days and a copy of the papers to be published as a special supplement to the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*. Those wishing to attend the symposium dinner on Thursday evening, 12 February, should send with their application form the additional fee of £8 (sterling) which includes drinks before and with the dinner. The final programme will be sent out in February 1976. Application forms can be obtained from The Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF.

of non-chromosomal genetic topics: cleft lip and palate; the present status of treatment of the mucopolysaccharidoses; new studies on mucolipidosis III; Menkes syndrome; the prune belly syndrome; familial cardiac lipidosis.

While an individual volume of these Boston conferences is perhaps not worth buying, the series may provide a useful continuous summary of advances in clinical genetics.

C. O. CARTER

Progress in Medical Genetics, Volume X. Edited by Arthur G. Steinberg and Alexander G. Bearn. (Pp. 269; illustrated. £10.80.) New York: Grune and Stratton. 1974.

Volume X in the series is an excellent indicator of the continuing expansion of medical genetics and its increasing practical importance. There are seven chapters whose subjects include the mutation rate in man (John Edwards), biochemical polymorphisms in animals (M. J. Siciliano, D. A. Wright, and Charles R. Shaw), inborn errors of the thyroid (John B. Stanbury), mucopolysaccharidoses (Elizabeth F. Neufeld), control of Tay Sachs' disease (M. M. Kaback, R. S. Zeiger, L. W. Reynolds and Marguerite Sonneborn), the XYY conundrum (D. S. Borgaonkar and S. A. Shah), and finally the evergreen topic of ethical issues in genetics (Robert M. Veatch). It is perhaps invidious to select from among consistently good articles, and one's own interests naturally colour one's selection. The chapter by Siciliano, Wright, and Shaw describing biochemical polymorphisms in animals is particularly fascinating. Having kept tropical fish for a number of years and observed at considerable expense their frequent mortality, I was greatly enlightened by the account of a single gene model for melanoma occurring in F1 hybrids of certain swordtails and platyfish. The descriptions of biochemical markers in these chromosomally undistinguished fish show the way that massive and apparently selectively neutral polymorphism can provide convenient markers for mapping. As the authors correctly point out animal models may vary in their relevance to man from being totally meaningless to being completely satisfying. For the most part their values lie in suggesting mechanisms or experiments which may be relevant in man and provide experimental systems which cannot be directly approached for ethical reasons. Borgaonkar and Shah have produced a nicely balanced account of the XYY chromosome male and discussed its merits as a syndrome. Though they are unable to resolve the issue, they provide a most valuable review and bibliography. Elizabeth Neufeld discusses the mucopolysaccharidoses and mucolipidoses storage disease with particular clarity. The other chapters are excellent, as I indicated earlier, and the whole volume deserves to be read from cover to cover.

R. HARRIS

Announcement

The Dr. Heinz Karger Memorial Foundation invites the submission of papers on the following subjects: 1976—an original research paper on 'Methods for the early diagnosis of genetic disorders'. 1977—an original research paper on 'Molecular biology of metabolic diseases'.

Conditions: Manuscripts shall not exceed 20 typewritten pages, including illustrations, tables, and bibliography. Manuscripts marked 'Competition' must reach the publishers, S. KARGER AG, Arnold-Böcklin-Strasse 25, CH-4011 Basle (Switzerland), not later than 28 February 1976 and 1977. The manuscript must be typewritten on one side only, double-spaced, and is to be submitted in quadruplicate, and in accordance with the instructions contained in *The Manuscript* (Rules for the preparation of manuscripts and bibliographies of scientific papers). This booklet can be obtained free of charge from the publishers if the request is marked 'Competition'. Language: English, German, or French. Publication: The winning papers will be published in English in one of the Karger journals. The award for the prizes will be SFr. 7000.00 each. The Council of the Foundation will judge the papers and confer the prizes.

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