

An Introduction to Medical Genetics. J. A. FRASER ROBERTS, M.D., D.SC., F.R.S. Oxford University Press. Third edition. 1963. Pp. xiv + 283. Price 35s.

This book was originally written, as the author told us in his preface to the second edition, to "explain this genetics business" to a medical student friend of his. He succeeded admirably and hence this third edition, brought up to date with a new chapter on chromosome abnormalities and revision particularly of what was said about the genetics of blood groups and abnormal haemoglobins.

Those who do not already know this book will wish they had found it long ago. Those who knew but did not buy the second edition have a chance to put things right by owning the new edition. This is not a book about Mendelian sweet peas but about human beings—about the fingers of the first Earl of Shrewsbury and his descendants and about a young man who lied over his family history of retinitis pigmentosa. In short, it is about *medical genetics*.

Your Child from Five to Twelve. R. S. ILLINGWORTH, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H. A Family Doctor booklet published by the British Medical Association. Pp. iii + 31. Price 1s.

This booklet has been written to fill a chronological gap in the Family Doctor series.

It is designed to help intelligent parents, and the name of the author is a complete recommendation of its understanding and reliability. It is interesting that the bulk of the troubles discussed come back to the relationship of the child with his parents.

To what extent will "Counselling" of the parents help these difficulties? Often the results are disappointing unless the parents can be given more insight. What is clear, however, is that counselling is a first step and the doctor can be confident that if the parents have absorbed a book such as this then the possibilities of good advice have been exhausted.

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It is much regretted that an error has occurred in the setting up of two book reviews. The last paragraph on page 676 should have been placed at the end of the review of *Biochemical Findings in the Differential Diagnosis of Internal Diseases* on page 670. The Editor apologizes to the publishers and authors of these books for any inconvenience which may have occurred.