BOOK REVIEWS

information bearing on human inheritance that is fairly readily available elsewhere, but neither so systematized nor so concise. If there is any criticism, it is that conciseness in this section has been carried to an extreme, which may make these chapters rather difficult reading to the uninitiated. The methods and mathematics of medical genetics are discussed in the four chapters of the second part wherein essential information, available only in a scattered literature, is presented. The six chapters of the third part deal with the inheritance in man of normal traits, such as physiological features, blood grouping, and psychic qualities, a useful chapter being devoted to constitution and constitutional types. It is only in the last hundred pages that hereditary diseases are considered. The different systems are reviewed briefly and authoritatively. The three concluding chapters of the book, which constitute a fifth section, are devoted to genetic hygiene—a subject of immediate clinical importance, and one to which Professor Kemp has made outstanding contributions.

The book carries 100 illustrations, including both clinical photographs and pedigrees. This comprehensive and authoritative book should do much to stimulate clear thinking and productive work by clinicians. It is unfortunate that the translation from the original Danish is not quite adequate.


This volume provides an excellent groundwork for the orthoptic student. It deals chiefly with orthoptic diagnosis and treatment with an emphasis on the fact that the treatment is in itself a process of teaching and learning.

The manual is divided into two parts. The first part deals with orthoptic problems, including the selection of cases suitable for treatment. It is refreshing here to find a book of this kind severely critical; statements that no treatment is better than useless treatment, and that orthoptic training should not be used as routine treatment in unselected cases, are valuable. The second part deals with orthoptic techniques, which are explained in detail in a manner not covered by any other orthoptic text-book.

All would not agree perhaps with the suggestion that there is no hurry to give orthoptic treatment after operation; or with the idea of devoting six months' effort to correcting anomalous correspondence. The absence of explanatory diagrams is a drawback and definitions of the areas of Panum and of the Swan blind spot syndrome might well have been included. This book is, however, a very valuable and helpful contribution to the subject.

A Technique of Fitting Spectacle Frames. Published by the Association of Dispensing Opticians. 1952. Pp. 20, 2 appendices. A.D.O., London. (2s. 6d.)

This booklet is divided into four main parts:

1. A statement of the basic measurements essential in fitting spectacles.
2. A definition of the measurements.
3. A way of obtaining the measurements.
4. General notes of interest in relation to spectacle fitting.

The two appendices contain drawings of frames and lens shapes. The whole forms an excellent elementary guide to the fitting of spectacles.