

quency. As a matter of fact, the frequency of a twin birth being by and large of 1/80, there will be one twin every forty individuals, one twin or parent of twin every twenty, and so on, with the practical result that almost everyone has a twin, or twins in his family.

Practically everyone is therefore interested in twins, either for scientific reasons or simple curiosity and/or direct concern. And, strange as it may appear, when dealing with twins scientific data may be of interest to the layman, and curiosities and anecdotes to the scientist.

These are but some of the reason's why this new book by Amram Scheinfeld, the author of many publications on human heredity for the general reader, may be welcomed.

In «Twins and Supertwins» the subject of multiple-born is dealt with on the basis of original data and detailed accounts on their origin and birth, different types, frequency, and special problems related to education, individual and pair-psychology, family and social environment, physical and mental traits, health and sickness, etc.

Nicely illustrated with numerous charts and drawings by the Author himself, completed by analytical lists of references and well presented by the Publisher, although especially written for the layman, the book is recommended to all who are interested in twins.

### The placenta in twin pregnancy

By S. J. Strong and G. Corney Pergamon Press - Oxford, 1967. Bound volume with jacket. XVI-134 pages. 34 coloured and 52 black-and-white illustrations. 16 tables. 18×24 cm. £ 5 5s. (\$ 14.00 approx.).

As Dr. J. Chassar Moir puts it, in his foreword to this book, "It is a curious fact that a happening so remarkable as the occurrence of a twin pregnancy should, hitherto, have attracted but little serious attention from obstetricians. Every student knows ... that there are uniovular and multiovular twins; but here the interest usually wanes, and questions

that could delve deep into the secrets of genetics are left unasked or are heedlessly brushed aside".

This recent book by Drs. Strong and Corney now provides an account of the problems related to twin placentation and pregnancy, which is of particular interest for physiologists and geneticists, and of direct concern to obstetricians.

The place of twins and twin placenta in myth, history and science is first examined as an introduction. Once modern conceptions stressed, and old beliefs swept away, developmental aspects, i.e. the main ontogenic stages, and the frequency of the different types of twinning are reviewed. The central part of the work is then concerned with the examination of twin placentae and of the vascular communications in both types, mono-chorial or dichorial.

The mass of information provided and the beautiful colored plates, make this book highly recommended to everyone interested in twin research, and especially to obstetricians.

### Abnormal hemoglobins in human populations - A summary and interpretations

By Frank B. Livingstone. Aldine Publishing Company - Chicago, 1967. Bound volume with jacket of XII-476 pages including 24 figures and 4 tables. 15×24 cm. \$ 12.50.

The last few years have witnessed a tremendous trend in researches concerned with the inheritance, biochemistry and distribution of human abnormal hemoglobins. Furthermore, the possibility of applying to these, as well as to many other such traits ever more refined computer models of population genetics, while granting new possibilities of analysis, may also give us new insights into human population and evolution studies.

This is well demonstrated by Dr. Livingstone's book, which is a compilation of the frequencies of the abnormal hemoglobins, thalassemia and the glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency in the world's population.

The data published by some 800 works up