

## Book Reviews

### **The Hereditary Dystrophies of the Posterior Pole of the Eye**

(Le Distrofie Ereditarie del Polo Posteriore dell'Occhio)

Di A. F. Deutman. Royal Van Gorcum Ltd. - Assen 1971. Volume rilegato, con sovracoperta, di 17 × 25 cm; VIII+484 pagine; 263 illustrazioni in bianco e nero e a colori (13 tavole). Indice analitico e degli autori. Prezzo non indicato.

In questo bel libro arricchito di numerose fotografie in bianco e nero e a colori l'autore considera una serie di 14 malattie o gruppi di malattie che interessano il fondo dell'occhio: le distrofie ereditarie della regione centrale della retina e della coroide, la retinoschisi giovanile legata al sesso, la malattia di Stargardt, la distrofia progressiva della fovea, la distrofia progressiva del cono, la retinopatia pigmentosa centrale e pericentrale, la distrofia vitelliforme della fovea, il « fundus flavimaculatus », la malattia di Sjögren, la distrofia pigmentaria e altre pigmentazioni anomale della fovea, le *drusen* della membrana di Bruch, la malattia di Sorsby e la distrofia centroareolare della coroide.

I capitoli sono seguiti dalla casistica personale, spesso corredata da alberi genealogici, dove si notano anche delle coppie gemellari interessate variamente dai processi morbosi, come alle pagine 84 (non 34! cf. indice analitico), 372, 375, 393, 394. L'interpretazione genetica è riferita alla genetica mendeliana e non alla genetica molecolare. La bibliografia è abbondante e tiene in giusto conto le scuole oftalmologiche italiane.

L. G.

### **Genetic Concepts and Neoplasia**

A collection of papers presented at the Twenty-Third Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research, 1969, at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston. The William and Wilkins Co. — Baltimore 1970. Bound volume with cover; 16 × 23 cm; XIII+620 pages including numerous tables and black-and-white illustrations. Subject and author index. Price: US \$ 17.00.

The familial occurrence of cancer has been observed many years ago, and the existence of some relationship between heredity and neoplasia had been postulated long before the term *genetics* was adopted.

A pooling of efforts by geneticists and cancerologists is obviously desirable, and this book represents both a valid example of such pooling and, we hope, the stimulus towards a much wider cooperation.

Perhaps too many geneticists consider cancer the area of the exception rather than the rule in genetic research, and the quest for the rule leads them to disregard the exception. A similar, reverse outlook seems to lead many cancerologists to consider the comparatively "normal" laws of genetics as something opposed to the unpredictability of most cancers.

It is heartening to see in this book the enthusiasm and ingenuity with which the enormous mass of modern genetic information and techniques is applied to the solution of many unanswered problems of cancerogenesis. Cell hybridization, chromosome cultures, twin studies, transformation of cultured cells, X-inactivation, derepression, degeneracy of the genetic code, tRNA variation, allophenic mice, differential growth rates in normal tissue, DNA repair and