Book reviews

This book is to be welcomed as a stimulus to more effective therapy, for the standardization of the test material, and for the development of a reliable predictive index.

I. T. DRAPER


This slim monograph documents a detailed research into the early neurological and psychomotor development of a sample of mongols in an area south of London.

Although the book is clearly written, its presentation still bears the style of the thesis of which it forms the substance. The fragmenting of the book into 22 sub-chapters is irritating. The book really falls into three areas—precise methodology; a description of the developmental examination of the subjects at four periods in the first ten months of life; and an analysis of the results by comparison with standards in the literature (scattered throughout the book), and by computer.

The methodology is impeccably delineated and the sample of mongols is carefully demonstrated as being representative, displaying, by choice of reference, an authoritative knowledge of the syndrome. The items of the neurological examination of the subjects are clearly, necessarily, defined and the sources of the norms adequately stated. The photographs, tables, and histograms are correctly illustrative and appropriately placed.

The book presumes that the reader is familiar, not only with developmental pediatrics, but also with psychology and statistics. A considerable part of the book is concerned with statistics and comprehension requires a knowledge of analysis of variance. The psychological instruments are vital to the thesis; yet terms like D.I.Q., DMQ, and ‘low Piaget score’ creep into the text undefined and unreferenced. It cannot be assumed that the clinician will be versed in the sensori-motor patterns described by Piaget. Although the Nancy Bayley scale is repeatedly mentioned, one cannot find its reference, either in the book, or even in the sixth (current) Mental Measurements Year Book. Is this a revision of the Bayley California Scales? The psychological measures ought to have been fully explained in the appendix, which might have been composed in a more illustrative and imaginative manner to balance the text.

Wollman’s ‘Down’s Syndrome: a reference bibliography’ cites 692 references but does not even index development. This monograph, therefore, is a valuable addition to the literature of mongolism, and furthers our knowledge of developmental pediatrics. Its results show that neurological and psychological tests become more stabilized and definitive as the mongol infant grows, and confirm the value of these tests in the developmental assessment, especially around the tenth month of life. Such scholarly research contributes to consolidating and integrating developmental pediatrics and developmental psychology. Dr. Cowie does not maintain (wisely) that the early developmental tests which she describes have predictive validity, but she does show that marked deviation from the norms on these neurological and
Book reviews

I. T. Draper

*J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 1970 33: 413
doi: 10.1136/jnnp.33.3.413

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://jnnp.bmj.com/content/33/3/413.1.citation

These include:

**Email alerting service**

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/