usually associated with sickle-cell anaemia (though actual sickle cells were not detected in them), nor did the altitude of Mexico City cause detectable haemolysis.

Another genetic study included finger and hand prints, an although these studies showed racial differentiation, they were inconclusive in showing any pattern between athletes in different classes of events.

Chromosome patterns were studied in buccal smears. Sex chromatin "Barr bodies" which can be found in tissue cells in females at all times, and not just at mitosis, were observed. There was a wide difference between the numbers of cells displaying these amongst the women tested, but a few of the men also displayed the occasional Barr body as well. No apparent females with XY male chromosomes were found, nor did the team find any XYY patterns, (associated with tall violent criminals) among the 15 women and 227 men upon whom full chromosome counts were done. There was, however, a surprising variation in the tails of the Y chromosomes throughout the male population studied, which cannot be explained so far.

I enjoyed reading the book, partly for the scientific information it contained, both in studies that gave positive results, but also those whose results were inconclusive or even contrary to what was expected. It also brought back happy memories of the courtesy I received from Dr. de Garay, Dr. Faulhaber and Professor Ford when I visited the laboratory in the Olympic Village, and the help and interest I had a few days later from Barbara Heath and Lindsay Carter. The published book perhaps failed to put across the dedication of the research teams, their struggle to do their work under very difficult conditions, and the excellent collaboration between the various teams. They worked hard in Mexico, but appeared to enjoy themselves whilst doing so. They also worked hard and fast to produce results as quickly as possible, and most of the somatotype ratings were completed and checked within a week of the measurements being made. It is a great pity that it then took six years for the published report to come out, according to the date of publication printed in the book, but actually eight years before it appeared in U.K. shops. As far as I understand, no communications to any scientific society (except a preliminary report about techniques from Dr. Faulhaber to the World Congress of Sports Medicine in 1968) have been made, nor anything arising from this project published up to the production of the book. I do not think it possible to lay any blame on any of the authors for this. There was no "mañana" about the way the scientific work was conducted.

It is inevitable that this book will be compared with J. M. Tanner's "Physique of the Olympic Athlete". It certainly lacks the latter's abundant illustrations, and is unlikely to be a somatotyper's aid to the extent that Sheldon's "Atlas of Man" or Parnell's "Behaviour and Physique" are, but it does contain the Heath-Carter technique in detail, and the necessary tables for making the calculations; information that so far only has appeared in journals as far as I know. As with most publications in "Sports Medicine", I learnt a good deal of general medicine, especially genetics and haematology, from this book, put over in a way that could easily be understood. It is well produced, and at a price that any medical or physical education college should afford.

H. Evans Robson

BOOKLET REVIEW
DECOMPRESSION AND NARCOSIS
by A. S. G. CURTIS
Scottish Sub Aqua Club NDC Paper 1, 35pp, 1974, 0.75p

This booklet is an important attempt to condense and promulgate information on two of the most difficult problems in diving physiology. The brevity means that there is little amplification or qualification of concepts so that statements may be startling in their starkness and underlying major assumptions are not clarified.

My heart sinks at the thought of yet another form for medical examination of divers. If only the Scottish Sub-Aqua Club and the British Sub-Aqua Club could combine! at least in their medical requirements. This passion for almost everything to be different in Scotland or elsewhere will lead to much unnecessary work for everyone.

The uninitiated may not realise how controversial the subjects are from this presentation.

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