

The final, discussive chapter considers the Ancestry and Evolution of B-chromosomes. There is little hard evidence on this fascinating aspect and the authors rightly stress that it is the modification of this pairing and genetic expression of a trisomic element rather than its initial production that is at the heart of the problem.

From someone who has known both authors and their work for some years it is pleasing to see the simple logical structure of this book and the clarity of its prose. One can detect the characteristic way in which a familiar observation is viewed from a different and revealing angle.

The book should interest and will certainly be of value to all who are concerned with chromosomes and with evolution, regardless of experience. Those whose interests lie with the more recent topics of selfish and redundant DNA will also benefit from this consideration of half a century's research and discussion on chromatin described as parasitic in 1945.

GODFREY HEWITT

University of East Anglia, Norwich

BOOKS RECEIVED

EVOLUTIONARY PRINCIPLES. Peter Calow. Blackie. Pp. viii + 108. Price: £13.95 HB; £6.95 PB.

PAEDIATRIC RESEARCH: A GENETIC APPROACH. M. Adinolfi, P. Benson, F. Gianelli and M. Seller (Eds.). Spastics International Medical Publications with Heinemann Medical. Price: £15.00.