colleagues who take the decision-making right away from their patients and of the religious obstacles which prevent parents from benefiting from scientific advances.

In summary, *Know Your Genes* is an attempt to explain to laymen the nature of heredity and its relevance to their reproductive lives. As such, it is a useful contribution which falls short of the mark in terms of its lucidity, precision, and presentation of material in a manner that is easily understood and usable.

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Genetic Engineering: Threat or Promise? By L. E. KARP. Chicago: Nelson-Hall, Inc., 1976. Pp. 235. $15.00.

It would be a great boon to public discussions if *Genetic Engineering* were read by a large percentage of the educated laymen for whom it was intended. Given the lack of genetics in most medical school curricula, I believe that most physicians would be helped by a perusal, too. However, the book is not what the title implies. "Genetic engineering" suggests directed alterations in DNA—one might expect the book to discuss restriction enzymes, recombinant DNA, etc. Not so; by defining "genetic engineering" as directed alterations in the genes of a population rather than in an individual, Dr. Karp has written quite a different book, or books. About one-half of the text best fits the title "The Layman's Guide to Medical Genetics," while the other half is correctly titled "Reproductive Engineering." Both of these subjects are discussed in a readable manner and are moderately well illustrated. Dr. Karp includes in the text a lot of his personal, pragmatic philosophy but defends it quite well. He believes that research and practice in areas such as prenatal sex determination, in vitro fertilization, and artificial uteri ought to continue.

Having pointed out that the title is misleading, I would criticize the book on two other counts. One is the insistence on precise, but seldom used, terminology in a book intended for lay readers. It would not hurt reproductive biologists to use "ectogenesis" instead of "in vitro fertilization," but I feel the latter requires less effort on the part of the nonspecialist reader. Similarly, euphenics, euthenics, and eutelegenesis would be better left in footnotes. Second, errors of detail are less critical in a nonspecialist book (I, for one, am happy if people see the forest), but they are not infrequent. Quantities, be they of the frequency of genetic disease or of risks with inbreeding, are not handled with accuracy or consistency. Dr. Karp is obviously no biochemist. He would have maternal correction of the PKU fetus occur by circulation of the enzyme to the fetus rather than of metabolites to the maternal liver.

Thus, this book was not intended and is not recommended for human geneticists, for instance, the population geneticist who wants to catch up on recent advances in nucleic acid technology, but professionals could use it as a text in an undergraduate "science and society" course for nonmajors.

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Genetic and Malformation Syndromes in Clinical Medicine. By W. L. NYHAN and N. O. SAKATI. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. 1976. Pp. 499. $62.95.

In the Preface to *Genetic and Malformation Syndromes* the senior author states, "We began this book in self-defense." After reading the volume of nearly 500 pages, this reviewer would