bronchopneumonia. The children lived for 10, 23 and 32 months. At autopsy in 2 patients, the brain weighed approx 500 gms and showed marked hypoplasia of the corpus callosum, aqueductal stenosis, enlarged 3rd and 4th ventricles, widened cavum septi pellucidi, and diffuse degenerative changes with astrocytosis. The literature on anomalies associated with callosal defects is reviewed. (da-Silva EO. Callosal defect, microcephaly, severe mental retardation, and other anomalies in three sibs. Am J Med Genet April 1988;29: 837-843).

COMMENT. Congenital callosal defects occur alone or with other brain anomalies, e.g. septum pellucidum defect, hydrocephalus, porencephaly, polymicrogyria, and cerebellar hypoplasia. Mental retardation, seizures, and failure to thrive are commonly associated, but the callosal defect itself may be asymptomatic. At least 4 distinct syndromes include callosal agenesis as a major component: Aicardi (with infantile spasms, hypsarrhythmia, chorioretinal lacunae and coloboma), Schinzel acrocallosal syndrome (with macrocephaly, and polydactyly), Anderman's syndrome (with anterior horn cell disease), and Shapiro syndrome (with recurrent hypothermia). (See Ped Neur Briefs, March 1988;2:17).

HYPOMELANOSIS OF ITO

The neurological complications in 34 Spanish children with hypomelanosis of Ito are described from the Paediatric Neurology Service, Hospital Infantil La Paz, and La Universidad Autonoma, Madrid, Spain. Most were referred because of mental retardation (65%) and seizures (53%), and the ages at time of the first visit were 2 months to 10 years. Skin lesions, observed within the first year of life in 70% of patients, consisted of hypomelanotic depigmented patches, cafe-au-lait spots, and angiomatous nevi; changes in hair color and alopecia also occurred. Noncutaneous abnormalities, observed in 94%, included macrocephaly, microcephaly, hemihypertrophy, kyphoscoliosis, coarse facial features, and hypertelorism. Autosomal dominant inheritance was demonstrated in some. (Pascual-Castroviejo I et al. Hypomelanosis of Ito. Neurological complications in 34 cases. Can J Neurol Sci May 1988; 15:124-129).

COMMENT. The incidence of this disease was estimated at 1 per 1000 new patients consulting a pediatric neurology service, or 1 per 10,000 unselected patients in a children's hospital. It affects all races, but fair-skinned individuals may require a Woods lamp examination to detect the cutaneous lesions.

BRAIN LESIONS IN THE NEWBORN

NEUROPATHOLOGY OF PRENATAL BRAIN DAMAGE

Autopsy results of 89 infants who died at 7 days of age or less were analysed in the Depts of Pathology and Pediatrics, University of California School of Medicine, Davis, CA. Twenty-two (25%) showed evidence of prenatal brain lesions; 10 (16%) were preterm and 12 (48%) were term infants. Term infants were affected more often than