

Staged models in embryology

by

PETER L. FIELD

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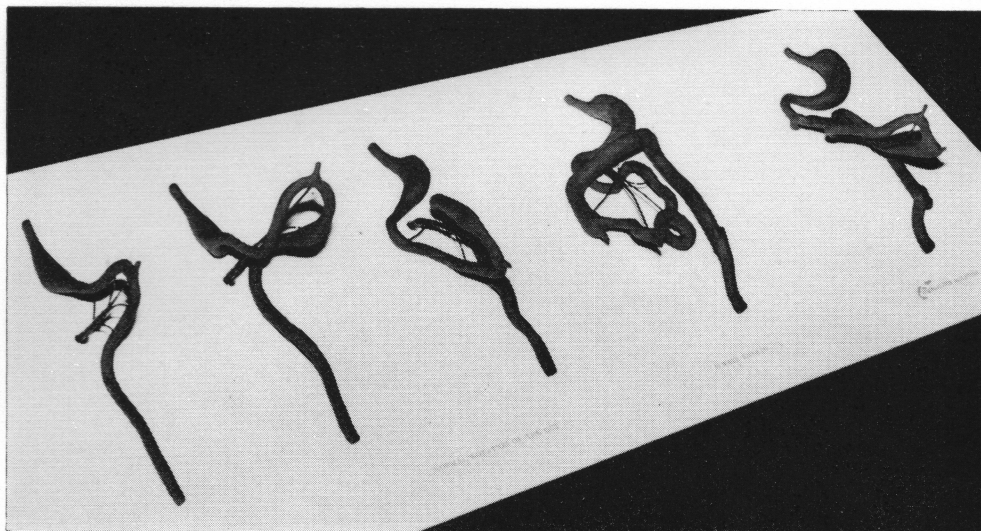


FIG 1 *A model for teaching embryology shows the stages of normal development in sequence, with an example of abnormal rotation alongside for comparison.*

Anatomical models which demonstrate the spatial relationships of structures in the body are always welcomed by the student. Fine models by the French artists of the last century complement the anatomical dissections displayed in our museum, and the ease with which they convey information is clear.

A set of models can readily show the stages of organ formation in the growing embryo. The illustrations show simple models depicting one vital phase of development of the human intestine. The elongation and rotation of the primitive gut tube into its final shape and position is a concept which is difficult to convey by a verbal description or even a drawing, but it is easy to display in three dimensions.

The models are made of coloured Plasticine on a copper wire core, and the painted wire vessels give added support. The structures are mounted on white Perspex for permanent display.

Developmental variations are easily understood when shown alongside the normal embryonic sequence. This provides a firm basis for the study of congenital abnormalities which the student will later encounter.

PETER L. FIELD
*Department of Anatomy,
University of Melbourne,
Australia 3052*

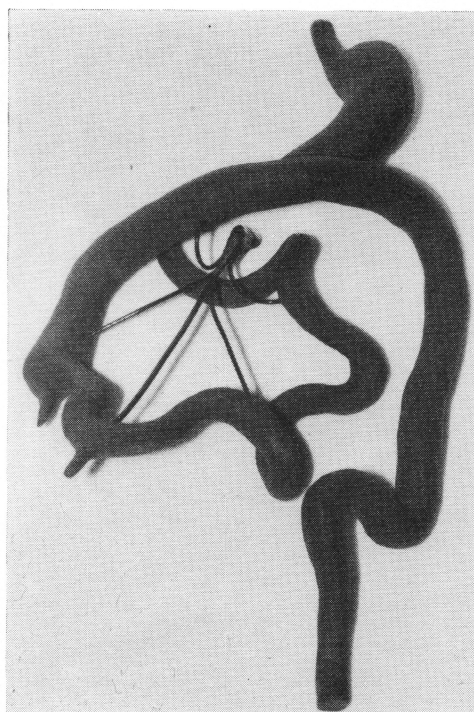


FIG 2 *Wire 'blood vessels' support the core on which the Plasticine organs are moulded, and also depict the axis of rotation.*