



FIG 3-2 Growth rates for the body as a whole and three types of tissues. *General*—body as a whole; external dimension; and respiratory, digestive, renal, circulatory, and musculoskeletal systems. *Lymphoid*—thymus, lymph nodes, and intestinal lymph masses. *Neural*—brain, dura, spinal cord, optic apparatus, and head dimensions. (Jackson, Patterson, and Harris, 1930). (Data from Jackson JA, Patterson DG, Harris RE: *The measurement of man*, Minneapolis, 1930, University of Minnesota Press.)

External Proportions

Variations in the growth rate of different tissues and organ systems produce significant changes in body proportions during childhood. The cephalocaudal trend of development is most evident in total body growth as indicated by these changes. During fetal development, the head is the fastest growing body part, and at 2 months of gestation, the head constitutes 50% of total body length. During infancy, growth of the trunk predominates; the legs are the most rapidly growing part during childhood; in adolescence, the