point of knowledge regarding the fundamentals of the life process.

The remaining three reviews are, by comparison, light weight. Broberger and Lagercrantz dutifully review a considerable literature on ulcerative colitis, but their outlook is too objective, they review without criticism, and the reader is often left without guidance on important aspects of this horrible disease over which there are differences of opinion. The Assistant Commissioner of the New York Department of Health contributes a worthy review of poisoning in childhood, but too much otherwise useful information is lost in non-contributory background sentences. For instance, it is fairly obvious 'that infants up to the age of one year (the creepers) are apt to swallow substances which they find on the floor or at low level', and it does not surprise your reviewer, at least, that 'it is noteworthy that in 20% of poisoning involving young children . . . the adults in the household were unaware that the agent was hazardous'. However, here and there the reader is helped along by titbits such as an item that INH caused an outbreak of precocious puberty in 1- to 5-year-olds.

The last review, however, on hereditary renal disease, by McCrory, Shibuya, and Worthen, illuminates an interesting corner of paediatrics in which all the emphasis is usually placed on environmental rather than on genetic causative factors.

Kinderzahnheilkunde und ihre Grenzgebiete.

Edited by WALTER KÜNZEL and JAROSLAV TOMAN. (Pp. 544; 402 figures + 16 tables. 75.- MDN) Berlin: VEB Verlag Volk und Gesundheit. 1965.

This is a large volume written by five contributors and edited by two of them. It deals with the entire field of children's dentistry, and the authors state in the foreword that this book was produced because in the past decades children's dentistry has become a speciality, and it is necessary to produce specialists in this field and to have this speciality accepted in the theoretical and practical curriculum of the dental course.

There are chapters dealing with the psychological approach to children's dentistry, radiology, the development of the teeth and jaws, complications during eruption, premedication and anaesthesia, the conservation of teeth, the social aspect of caries, the prevention of caries, the organization of the dental services for the young, extractions, replantation of teeth, the pathology and treatment of inflammations and tumours of the mouth, and the oral manifestations of general diseases. There are further small chapters on trauma of teeth and jaws, the tongue, allergies, prosthetics, and the book ends with a section on orthodontics.

This is indeed a vast undertaking and one wonders how all these subjects could have been adequately described in just over 500 pages. There are many excellent clinical photographs, some in colour, and the line drawings are well chosen and good illustrations of points that are often meaningless when shown in photographs. There is an excellent bibliography and the index is adequate. However, one comes back to the question of adequate coverage and whether or not the authors tried

to do too much. There are some omissions which immediately defeat the purpose of the book—namely, that it should present a comprehensive textbook of all that is concerned with children's dentistry. Conservation techniques are hardly mentioned and treatment in general is sparsely mentioned in most of the chapters dealing with diseases of the mouth. In the section on orthodontics only simple treatment measures are mentioned. Fixed appliances are not mentioned at all, and few orthodontists in this country would agree with the statement that after the age of 14 orthodontic treatment will have little success, though parents who wish to have children over that age treated should not be refused because of the 'psychotherapeutic effect of such a refusal'. The typical negative continental outlook on the subject of general anaesthetics is understandable, because this subject is not part of the dentist's curriculum in most European countries.

Few textbooks describe as well as this book does the psychological aspect of treatment of the child, but I was very disturbed to find the same approach to extraction of teeth without any kind of anaesthetic as that which could be found in German textbooks of the 1930s. The statement that 'the extraction of teeth without anaesthetics (local or general) is tolerated well by most children' in my opinion has no place in a textbook of the 1960s, especially when it is under the heading 'psychological tips on children's dentistry'.

The chapter on the history of the children's dental services is quite unique. First it deals in great detail with the development of the services in Germany as they were before 1945, and then concentrates on the services in the German Democratic Republic.

On the whole it must be said that this is a good book incorporating an enormous amount of information, but the specialist in children's dentistry requires more information and especially more detailed information regarding treatment. In other words it is not 'The' textbook on children's dentistry it was intended to be, but is still an excellent reference book for all those who can master the rather long-winded German style.

Renal Tubular Dysfunction. By L. I. WOOLF. (Pp. xiv + 253; illustrated. \$9.50) Springfield: Charles C. Thomas. 1966.

Dr. Woolf's excellent monograph summarizes the present knowledge of the various genetically determined disorders of renal tubular function, both primarily of the transport mechanisms themselves, and those secondary to general metabolic errors. The first two chapters, on the structure and function of the normal kidney and the available investigation of tubular function, form a valuable introduction to the chapters that follow, dealing in turn with all the known disorders. These are each designed to a pattern of biochemistry, genetics, mechanism and pathogenesis, and treatment, though the order varies somewhat inexplicably from one chapter to the next. Indeed, the chapters themselves seem also to be arbitrarily arranged. Chapter 3, for instance, is concerned with cystinuria and Hartnup disease, defects of

single transport mechanism even though several amino acids are involved, while consideration of glycinuria is postponed to chapter 5, together with the other single defects, glucosuria, phosphaturia, and renal acidosis, while diabetes insipidus is found in chapter 9, together with abnormal renal tubular response to hormones. Again, phospho-gluco-aminoaciduria might logically be expected to be followed by cystinosis, but is separated from it both by chapter 5 and by chapter 6 on the two general metabolic disturbances, galactosaemia and Wilson's disease.

These, however, are minor matters of arrangement and have perhaps been deliberately made to emphasize the difference rather than the similarities of the various conditions; they in no way detract from the clarity of the review of a subject that has been unusually long in emerging from the early phase of muddle which follows the eponymous phase of disease description. Those three great European paediatricians, who for 30 years contributed largely to the delineation of the various multiple tubular defects, themselves attempted to disentangle the semantic confusion that resulted in the use of their own names for these conditions. Dr. Woolf wisely discards them for a more logical biochemical nomenclature. Thus: glucosuria, phosphaturia, cystinuria, cystinosis, glycine-phosphaturia, and even phospho-gluco-aminoaciduria: though we may be thankful for Hartnup disease, which concerns 13 amino acids.

The monograph is aimed at senior students in training and at paediatricians, and is a model of clear comprehensive description and will certainly be a standby to both. Those who need more can consult the 22 pages of references.

The Acute Abdomen. By W. W. GLAS and S. E. GOULD. (Pp. xi + 155; 10 figures + tables. 60s.) Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins; Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone. 1966.

This monograph of 155 pages by 13 authors under the editorship of W. W. Glas and S. E. Gould aims at presenting pertinent information on selected acute abdominal problems which require medical, surgical, or often combined management, and to convey this information in a concise intelligible manner. It only contains three chapters of interest to paediatricians, Chapter XI on 'Diagnostic features of medical illness that mimic the acute surgical abdomen in children', Chapter XII on 'The most frequent abdominal surgical problems in children', and Chapter XIII on 'Post-operative fluid therapy in the paediatric patient'.

The remaining 10 chapters are on other aspects of the acute abdomen in adults and list fully the medical, surgical, and gynaecological causes with salient features of their management. Chapter V is excellent and discusses the priorities in management in dealing with patients with multiple injuries. Considerable emphasis has been placed on the value of peritoneal aspiration in the management of the acute abdomen (Chapter IV), though it is not in common use in this country and has probably very limited applications. The balance of the book is uneven, with 12 pages (Chapter VII) describing volvulus of the caecum, whereas diverticulitis of the sigmoid colon is dismissed in 7 pages (Chapter VIII).

I consider it unlikely that any consultant paediatrician or paediatric surgeon will benefit greatly from the perusal of this monograph.

Correspondence

Assessment of Urinary Phosphate Excretion

Sirs,

An error in the paper by Janse, van Gelderen, and Ruys, with the above title, in *Arch. Dis. Childh.* (1966), 41, 541, has come to light. We stated that the correlation between the ratio U_P/U_{CR} and serum P was not significant. Dr. B. E. C. Nordin asked us to check the calculations, and we have found that the correlation is significant (coeff. 0.47) at about the 1% level.

Yours, etc.,

H. H. van Gelderen,
J. H. Ruys