pendium of normal standards including those for some of the less commonly measured parts of the body.

I had two general thoughts on studying this book whose first edition has already proved its value. First, the majority of children whom I see with physical peculiarities, usually combined with mental retardation, do not fit into any of the recognized syndromes described in this book. Either there must be a vast number of as yet undescribed syndromes or, perhaps more probably, there are so many combinations of abnormalities that can occur during development that many of them do not cluster together with sufficient frequency to be recognized as a syndrome. The second thought is that this is one field of medicine in which computer-aided diagnosis really ought to be a practical and helpful possibility.

R. J. ROBINSON

Developmental Pathology of the Neonate.

By JEANNE-CLAUDIE LARROCHE. (Pp. 525; illustrated + tables. US \$73.50.)

Excerpta Medica: Amsterdam, 1977.

This book makes no attempt to be a complete textbook on the subject but ranges widely over the author's own interests in various aspects of fetal development and perinatal pathology. An initial chapter on the technique of post-mortem examination is followed by others dealing with particular organs or organ systems and with individual pathological conditions or syndromes such as haemolytic disease, nonimmunological hydrops fetalis, and intrauterine growth retardation. There is a separate chapter on pathology associated with umbilical catheterization. A major part of the book is concerned with development and pathology of the central nervous system.

It is certainly useful to have, within a single volume, access to Dr. Larroche's views on a wide variety of aspects of perinatal pathology, and neonatal neuropathology in particular. There are many sections which will interest any pathologist or paediatrician concerned with the perinatal period and a few chapters, such as that on the lungs, can be regarded as good reviews of their subjects. Particularly welcome is the inclusion of descriptions and illustrations of the pathological lesions associated with different forms of

neonatal intensive care. However, I find it difficult to understand to what readership the work is principally directed as the style is that of a straightforward morbid anatomical text, rather than a compilation of papers on topics of interest to the author. Both spelling and use of English are as haphazard as the selection of subjects for inclusion, and many of the photographs are poorly reproduced. Although this book forms a useful addition to those available on neonatal pathology, it cannot replace the standard texts.

JONATHAN WIGGLESWORTH

Clinical Pediatric Urology, Vols. 1 and 2.

Edited by P. P. KELALIS and L. R. KING. (Pp. xxix+1107; illustrated + tables. £50.00.) Saunders: Philadelphia, London, and Toronto. 1976.

This is the most comprehensive work yet produced on paediatric urology and will undoubtedly be the standard work from the USA in this exciting and rapidly advancing field for some years to come. Every aspect of the speciality is covered in detail by a team of paediatric urologists and paediatricians, helped by an anaesthetist, a gynaecologist, a radiologist, and a geneticist. The editors have put the whole together so successfully that there is minimal overlap and the text is most readable. The emphasis throughout is clinical with a good balance between diagnostic aspects and operative detail. In addition to the chapters on obstruction, infection, and congenital abnormalities, etc., several topics have been taken separately such as incontinence, neuromuscular dysfunction, abdominal masses, hypertension, anaesthetic management, genetics, and radiological evaluation and these are clear and explicit contributions.

So much of these two volumes is excellent and up-to-date that it is invidious to single out examples but the sections on incontinence, posterior urethral valves, and undiversion (the process of restoring urinary continuity after diversion) are exceptionally good. The standard of illustrations and x-ray reproductions, with a few exceptions, is superb. The references at the end of each chapter are selected and recent. Although there are no British contributors to the text, the references to

clinicians from this country are plentiful and generous.

At a time when the price of all good things is spiralling it is not surprising that these volumes are expensive but I believe they are good value for your money and a sound investment. They will be compared with Innes Williams's *Paediatric Urology* but they are so dissimilar in scope, approach, and price that they are complementary and will stand proudly on a shelf together.

ROBERT H. WHITAKER²

Paediatric Haematology. By MICHAEL²

L. N. WILLOUGHBY. (Pp. xii + 434, illustrated + tables. £18.00.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh, 1977.

This book is intended to be of use to all concerned with diagnosis and management of blood diseases in children. In these days of wordy multiauthor textbooks, it is refreshing to see one author cope with the whole spectrum of paediatric haematology. Wisely, Willoughby does not embark on lengthy expositions of pathophysiology which are already available in existing texts. There is enough explanation for clarity and the book is extensively, perhaps rather unselectively, referenced, with citations up to 1975. Of course, the single authorship has led to uneven coverage of topics but the overall standard is high; the chapters on neonatal anaemias and the disorders of haemostasis seem particularly good. Few would share the author's enthusiasm for the osmotic fragility test in investigation of thalassaemia; indeed the whole chapter on haemoglobin disorders is disappointing and shows insufficient clinical emphasis. Similar criticisms can be made of the chapter on acquired haemolytic anaemias where recent evidence about the frequency of acute complement-mediated haemolysis in childhood is not mentioned. Most topics, however, are amply dealt with in a way that carries the stamp of the author and his own experience.

This book can be confidently recommended as a handbook and reference source for the general paediatrician and for the haematologist who has to deal with occasional haematological problems in children.

JUDITH M. CHESSELLS^U