of the Second European Symposium sponsored by the British Heart Foundation and organised by the editors. The purpose of the symposium was to concentrate on some of the more important growing aspects of the diagnosis and management of congenital heart disease, and contributors from America and Europe were chosen for their special experience in the subjects covered. These of necessity tend to be rather restricted, so that the book in no way represents a comprehensive account of modern paediatric cardiological practice as its title might suggest.

As with all international symposia, the standard of contributions is variable. There is an excellent account of the new terminology in congenital heart disease and its relevance to the precise diagnosis of complex lesions, using the method of sequential chamber localisation which the editors themselves have done so much to promote during the last few years. Likewise, the sections on ventricular septal defect, Fallot's tetralogy, and atrio-ventricular canal defects, contain interesting material which is well presented. In particular, Rudolph's introductory review of ventricular septal defect in infancy is a small masterpiece of clarity and concise organisation of essential information. However, in other parts of the book, especially where the subject matter is more abstruse, both text and format tend to suffer from an unfortunate degree of repetitiveness. The free discussion that follows each major section, and which is generally of a high standard, enhances the interest and understanding of each subject.

Because of its specialised and selective content, this book cannot be recommended

as a work of reference for undergraduates or noncardiological postgraduates. Nor will it be of value to general paediatricians. However, for those engaged in the challenging and fascinating task of diagnosing and treating infants with complex congenital cardiac defects it will provide a fund of valuable and up-to-date information.

T. A. H. ENGLISH

Reflux and Renal Scarring. British Journal of Radiology Supplement 14. By P. G. Ransley and R. A. Risdon. (Pp. 35; illustrated + tables. £3.60 (£3 to members of British Institute of Radiology) paperback.) British Institute of Radiology: London. 1978.

It might seem a difficult task to review an experimental study the results of which so closely accord with the reviewer's own clinical experience and views. Nevertheless it can be said without reservation that this supplement deserves the close attention of all those who are concerned with the clinical care of children with urinary infection or vesico-ureteric reflux (VUR), and with the prevention of renal scarring and its possible consequences.

The association of VUR, renal scarring, and urinary infection has been recognised for some time, but the mechanisms have been less clear and there remain a number of unexplained clinical anomalies—such as the child with VUR who has recurrent urinary infection but persistently normal kidneys. Hodson's pioneering experimental studies had confirmed that when VUR was induced in pigs, the development of renal scarring was confined to those areas of the kidney where intrarenal

reflux (IRR) had been visualised. In this book Ransley and Risdon set out to investigate the relative importance of urodynamic factors, infection, and the morphology of the renal papillae in the development of such scars. The result was a carefully planned and controlled series of experiments presented clearly and readably and assisted with admirable diagrammatic, radiological, and histopathological illustration. The reasons for the choice of the experimental animal (piglet), and the precise techniques used, are also discussed succinctly.

The basic findings are summarised as follows: 'Segmental chronic pyelonephritic scarring in the young pig depends upon vesico-ureteric reflux of infected urine. Individual scars are formed at the sites of intrarenal reflux and this in turn is determined by the form of the renal papilla, some allowing intrarenal reflux and some preventing it.'

The morphology of the pig's kidney resembles that of the human in many respects and there is a close similarity between the induced and the naturally occurring renal scar. If the analogy between the experimental and clinical situation is to be pursued, then the implications of this study must include reappraisal of the need for ureteric reimplantation and its timing, and an emphasis on the importance of urinary infection, its early diagnosis, and adequate treatment.

Paediatricians, urologists, radiologists, and pathologists, will all enjoy reading this book. So too will those who are excited by observing the emergence of convincing answers from a carefully planned study.

JEAN M. SMELLIE