space, though their use in this condition can seldom, if ever, arise. Doctors and others without a special interest in this subject might find it difficult to decide the indications for certain treatments for individual patients.

As the basic defect of this condition is unknown there is still room for manoeuvre in treatment. This volume can act as a guide, but treatments must vary according to the severity of the patient's symptoms.

MARGARET B. MEARNES

Acute Diarrhoea in Childhood. Ciba Foundation Symposium 42 (new series). (Pp. 375; illustrated+tables. US \$26.95.) Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica. 1976.

This book has a somewhat misleading name for the clinician as its subject matter is principally concerned with the pathophysiology of acute diarrhoea in children. Those looking for a clear guide to clinical diagnosis and management will not find it here, but those wishing to understand the mechanisms of acute diarrhoea in childhood, its pathogenesis and as a consequence, a rational basis for management, will find this book a treasure trove of information. The contributors to this symposium are all leaders in their fields. One of the notable features of this book is the significant contribution made to it by workers in the veterinary field.

The role of bacteria in the aetiology of acute diarrhoea is fully discussed with a detailed account of the modern concepts of invasiveness and enterotoxin production and their importance in pathogenesis. Activation of adenyl cyclase by cholera toxin and also by other toxins is described. Field gives an excellent account of the regulation of active transport in the small intestine, Bullen describes the latest work concerning the resistance provided by breast feeding to enteritis caused by *E. coli* in infancy, and there is an interesting general discussion by many of the contributors to the symposium concerning the advantages of breast milk.

The exciting new work on the role of viruses in the aetiology of acute diarrhoea is described by some of the major workers in the field including Bishop and her colleagues, Flewett, and Kapikian and his colleagues, as well as animal experimental work by Hamilton and his colleagues and veterinary observations by Woode. The vastly important practical problems in the developing world are described in a prospective study in

Guatemala by Mata *et al.* Finally, Rohde and Northrup make a plea to take science where the diarrhoea is.

This book is essentially a work of reference and will be an invaluable source for anyone who is concerned with research in this rapidly expanding area of knowledge.

J. A. WALKER-SMITH

Textbook of Paediatric Nutrition. Edited by DONALD S. McLAREN and DAVID BURMAN. (Pp. 416; illustrated+tables. £15.00.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. 1976.

This excellent new textbook is, as far as I am aware, the only book on paediatric nutrition available in English. The 23 contributors discuss maternal and fetal growth, nutrition in the normal child, nutritional assessment, protein-energy malnutrition, obesity, deficiency states, fluid and electrolytes, carbohydrate, lipid and amino acid disorders, parenteral nutrition, and nutrition in various systemic disorders such as renal disease, coeliac disease, sugar malabsorption, protein-losing enteropathy, liver, cardiac, and renal disease, and cows' milk allergy. The social and community aspects of nutrition, the contribution of manufactured foods, and the prevention of malnutrition are also discussed. There is an interesting historical introduction. The editors have succeeded in their intention to emphasize practical details of clinical management and the principles involved. While detailed diets have, quite correctly, not been given, there is an astonishing amount of useful information available in the book.

It is up to date and fully referenced, well written, and well edited, apart from the chapter on maternal nutrition and fetal growth which could be improved by more discussion of the relevance of the great deal of information given. More emphasis might have been given to food allergy and anorexia nervosa which are only briefly considered. The discussion of dietary modification in kidney disease is inadequate, and the role of the kidney in infant nutrition and homeostasis is not mentioned. The physiology of appetite and the psychological and ethnic implications of feeding are omitted even though one is constantly aware of the difference between prescribing a diet and what is actually eaten. The effect of diet modification on the family is also important. The authors have preferred the mega to the kilo joule (kJ) throughout,

presumably for very good reasons, though I suspect that most clinicians find it easier to remember that 1 kilocalorie is 4.2 kJ.

Finally, the book is well printed, attractively laid out, has a hard back, and is expensive. Perhaps a soft cover could be produced to reduce the price and make it easier for the individual to buy. Certainly it should be available in all paediatric libraries and perhaps on the ward as well. Probably all paediatricians and dietitians will want to read it and many will want to own a copy for they will find it exceptionally useful in their clinical practice.

C. CHANTLER

Perinatal Medicine. Edited by HUGH E. EVANS and LEONARD GLASS. (Pp. 604; illustrated+tables. US \$38.50.) New York: Harper and Row. 1976.

New books on perinatal or neonatal medicine are raining down into the laps of bewildered paediatricians at the moment like over-ripe plums. They seem to say the same things in slightly different ways and it is beginning to be difficult to tell them apart. This one has 12 contributors, but the two editors, both from Downstate Medical Center, State University of New York, have written 17 of the 25 chapters themselves, and contributed largely to two more, so that there is considerable uniformity of style. The scope is ambitious. They aim to cover all aspects of fetal and neonatal medicine, and to include basic science as well as clinical information. Thus a background of embryology, physiology, and biochemistry is presented as well as clinical signs, differential diagnosis, details of diagnostic tests, and treatment. A transatlantic note is provided by an entire chapter on medicolegal aspects written by a lecturer in legal medicine; and two surgeons cover most of the commonly encountered surgical problems in another chapter. Short notes on new advances which came too late for the text are given as addenda in an appendix, and reveal the overweening time it takes to get a book published these days. The text is liberally illustrated, and diagrams are generally clear and reproductions of photographs and x-rays of good quality, though one picture entitled 'skeletal anomalies following use of LSD during pregnancy' and showing an infant with mis-shapen legs and an obvious meningo-myelocoele, seems strangely chosen. Each chapter is generously referenced, citing predominantly American work. One is

left with the impression after reading this book that it is generally worthy, perhaps a little dull, and can be most usefully consulted for basic knowledge rather than a critical discussion of present treatment. The lay-out is attractive, and the print does not overtax aging eyes.

PAMELA A. DAVIES

Pulmonary Physiology of the Fetus, Newborn and Child. Edited by EMILE M. SCARPELLI. (Pp. xiv+369; illustrated+tables. £19.25.) London: Kimpton. 1976.

This is on the whole a most readable book, though it does suffer a little from the inevitable repetitions associated with multiple authorship. There are 15 chapters, some dealing with basic pulmonary physiology, others concerned with the development of the lung, and the surfactant system. The rapidly expanding field of fetal homeostasis and breathing movements *in utero* is not neglected, and there are excellent and thought-provoking sections on the control of breathing and the complex forces operating between the alveoli, interstitial space, lymphatics, and the pulmonary capillaries. The lung is regarded not only as an organ of gas exchange but also as having a vital role to play in the battle against the mechanical, chemical, and infective forces that assail us.

Throughout the book there is a good balance between basic physiology and its practical application. The price may well deter the individual paediatrician but it would certainly be a valuable reference work for academic departments and is an

excellent source of information for those who want to 'catch up' in this field.

GILLIAN M. GANDY

Symposium on Development of Upper Respiratory Anatomy and Function. Edited by JAMES F. BOSMA and JANE SHOWACRE. (Pp. 279; illustrated. US \$7.10.) Washington: US Government Printing Office. 1976.

This is a record of a meeting held in Washington in 1971 organized by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. It brought together many workers sponsored by that organization with the members of the Nuffield Centre at Oxford and others all doing research in upper airway anatomy and physiology, and some doing human studies. All of the articles had their scripts updated to June 1975.

About a third of the book is concerned with anatomy. The general aspects are not well illustrated but there are better sections on vascularity, nervous control, and chemoreceptors. A section on apnoea production and on infant suckling during artificial feeding records the work of Steve Wealthalls and Paul Johnsons probably better than elsewhere. The objective of the conference was to stimulate work on upper respiratory physiology in relation to the problems on Unexpected Death in Infancy (SIDS in the USA) with the underlying thesis of there being some maturity-related reflexes arising in the upper respiratory tract leading to apnoea. Almost all speakers postulated different possible mechanisms for SIDS, very few of which would appear to be verifiable by a pathologist at necropsy. There were curious gaps in the subject matter of the

conference. Thus, while there is an extensive description of the functioning of the vocal cords, there is no paper or discussion on the necrosis of the vocal cords that has been repeatably documented in many infant deaths.

Five years ago this work would have made fascinating reading. At the moment it will be of interest to the newcomer to the subject of upper airway physiology related to child deaths, but to older students of the art it is a historical document illustrating our ignorance of many aspects of this part of the body of infants.

J. L. EMERY

The Essentials of Paediatric Surgery. By Harold Nixon and Barry O'Donnell. (Pp. 368; illustrated. £6.20.) London: Heinemann, 1976.

Many readers of the *Archives* will already be familiar with the two previous editions of this book. However, it is worth drawing to the attention of anyone who does not know it. It is a neat, lucid, concise account of common paediatric surgical problems—well written and excellently illustrated, the line drawings being particularly good. It is perhaps best on congenital malformations, which are so important in paediatric surgical practice. The approach is that of the general paediatric surgeon, and the book does not really cover some specialist aspects such as cardiac surgery and neurosurgery. This is a most valuable work for the paediatrician or trainee; it is also useful for students and nurses. It is excellent value for money.

R. J. ROBINSON