well produced in a large format with a pleasing layout. There are 31 contributors, mainly from England and Switzerland, and their styles of writing and presentation vary. The book was written for paediatricians with limited experience of cardiology, and for cardiologists with limited experience of young children. The editors have avoided needless repetition but they have at times forgotten their readership and given unnecessary details on some points and insufficient guidance on others.

There are three sections. The first deals with general aspects—such as, aetiology and genetics, the problem of pulmonary hypertension, the practical management of heart failure and methods of its investigation. It is surprising that the pharmacological manipulation of the ductus is so little discussed as it is of interest both to the paediatrician and the cardiologist. The paediatrician would like to know whether, when, and how to use indomethacin and prostaglandins. The use of the latter is not mentioned under pulmonary atresia nor is it mentioned under critical coarctation with a ductus, when it may be of value. The mechanism of arrhythmias is well described but there is little practical advice on, for example, the best drug to use nowadays for a critically ill newborn infant with supraventricular tachycardia. The section on cardiological examination is thorough and the diagrams geometrically innovative, but such detail as varying degrees of splitting of the second sound is more suitable for the paediatric cardiologist than for the paediatrician.

The second section deals with individual heart lesions and these are clearly described. Some lesions are well and lavishly illustrated, others not at all. The late complications after surgery however, are hardly mentioned and more information on them would have been useful.

The last section deals with acquired heart diseases—rheumatic fever, hypertension, cardiac tumours, and cardiomyopathies. Cardiomyopathies are discussed in great depth and this is a good section for reference.

There is no doubt that paediatricians will find this book interesting but it is a large book and an expensive one, and they have many other specialties to study: it will enable cardiologists to learn about congenital heart disease but it is a pity that there is not a separate chapter devoted to the newborn infant.

This book will be particularly helpful to the paediatrician or cardiologist in training while he is attached to a paediatric

cardiology unit and is seeing children with such conditions.

OLIVE SCOTT

The Injured Child. Surgical Management. Edited by J G Randolph, M M Ravitch, K J Welch, C D Benson, and E Aberdeen. (Pp. 420; illustrated + tables. £29.25 hardback.) YB Medical Publishers: London. 1979.

This is not a handbook for a busy casualty officer; it is an authoritative textbook that should be studied in depth and not consulted for immediate answers to clinical problems. The 24 contributors from North America with the help of one from Europe, are concerned with the management of life-threatening trauma and each writes from his clinical experience, which by English standards is immense. Most of the chapters are taken from the third edition of *Pediatric surgery* (Chicago Year Book Medical Publishers Inc., 1978), which undoubtedly has helped to keep the price down.

Any clinician who is responsible for an accident department that admits children will find useful the chapters on organisation, anaesthesia, respiratory support, and intravenous techniques. The middle section, which deals with trauma to the thorax, abdomen, central nervous system, and the genitourinary tract is well presented. However some topics are dealt with only superficially—for example, intravenous alimentation is dismissed in one page. The chapter on surgical infections is of general interest, but the section on congenital immune deficiency states seems hardly relevant. However, the chapter that follows which is about acute renal failure is of great importance and is written in a precise style. Child abuse is not forgotten and a well-balanced chapter is included.

There are good line drawings and the x-rays are clear and well chosen. Each chapter has references, but most cite American books and journals.

Written mainly by surgeons and anaesthetists, this book will appeal to clinicians in these two disciplines. I cannot agree with the editors that it should prove useful to family practitioners, although it would certainly be of value to any paediatrician working in conjunction with his general surgical colleagues. In striving to reduce the high mortality and morbidity from trauma, each accident department

should have access to this book, and it is recommended as post-Fellowship reading.

D DRAKE

Newborn Respiratory Care. Edited by M D Lough, T J Williams, and J E Rawson. (Pp. 333; illustrated + tables. £17.00 hardback.) YB Medical Publishers: London. 1979.

This book is the neonatal version of *Paediatric respiratory therapy* now in its second edition, which also has Dr Lough as its senior editor.

The first chapter gives a simple overview of the embryological and fetal development of the cardiac and respiratory systems and their postnatal changes. Chapters 2 to 5 describe neonatal resuscitation and pulmonary disorders, and neonatal radiology and pharmacology. Although the descriptions of disease are correct they are so brief that they would not give enough information to enable the management of a case of respiratory distress or meconium aspiration. Base therapy and the relevance of Paco_2 measurements are barely mentioned and the reason why some drugs (tolazoline) are described whereas others (diuretics) are not, remains a mystery.

Transportation of the sick neonate, practical procedures in neonatology, and the basic nursing care of neonates with lung disease are adequately covered in chapters 6 to 8. Chapters 9 and 10 comprise 30% of the text and contain detailed descriptions of the techniques and apparatus used when applying CPAP and IPPV. Although the text concentrates on these subjects it does not give enough information to enable one to cope with the overall management of an infant so treated. This also applies to chapter 11 which consists of a short description by Dr Boros on the management of infants with respiratory failure. Unfortunately, of the ventilators used in the UK only the Baby Bird and the Bourne BP 200 are described, and there are no data on Dräger ventilators, nor are there data on Bennett's, Loosco's, or Vickers's machines.

The book ends with a good account of the emotional and psychological problems of parents whose infants are in neonatal intensive care units. Although this is an important facet of neonatology it is curiously out of place in a book that is otherwise totally dedicated to the lung, and deals with none of the other peripheral activities important in the care of severe neonatal respiratory disease.

It is obvious that this book was written for respiratory technologists, a group of paramedics currently unknown in the UK, and it concentrates entirely on lung disease. As such it is inadequate for medical students or nurses, even for those working in neonatal intensive care units, and will be of little value even for house officers in such units. As may be expected of such a book it places considerable emphasis on physiotherapy, which at best is unnecessary in most neonates with respiratory illness and is usually risky. The authors are dangerously casual about the hazards of hyperoxaemia—they recommend high F_{O_2} for treating pneumothorax and for resuscitating premature infants with recurrent apnoea by bag and mask ventilation using 100% oxygen; this is the most effective way of creating retrolental fibroplasia.

For all these reasons, and because of the price, I think this book will have a very limited readership in the UK.

N R C ROBERTON

Pediatric Neuromuscular Diseases. By K F Swaiman and F S Wright. (Pp. 283; illustrated + tables. £27.00 hardback.) Mosby: St Louis. 1979.

The paediatric neurologists at the University of Minnesota Medical School have written this useful review. In their preface

they refer modestly to the book's ancestry and its relation to an earlier book of theirs, *Neuromuscular diseases of infancy and childhood*. Their approach is a practical one which has proved its value for training students and house staff.

Two chapters deal with diagnosis and laboratory tests and the remaining 8 with clinical conditions. The discussion of these is generally good: in describing numerous disorders which show only minor variations from one another it is only too easy to produce lists of symptoms and signs of great sameness and soporific power. This has been avoided and the reader's interest is maintained.

The clinical photographs and illustrations of biopsies are well chosen. The line drawings of gross and microscopic anatomy are excellent and helpful to an understanding of the pathophysiology.

The chapter on disorders of peripheral nerves and spinal nerve roots is of special value and includes discussions of facial palsy, postinjection nerve paralysis, and postimmunisation neuropathy; good accounts of these are not readily available elsewhere.

It is inevitable that this book must be compared with Victor Dubowitz's *Muscle disorders in childhood* which, in terms of value for money and richness of clinical and biopsy illustration, I think is still the best buy in this field although it was published a year earlier. However,

Swaiman and Wright have clearly succeeded in their aim of providing concise, useful, and current information.

EDWARD BRENNAN

Shorter notice

Follow-up of the High Risk Newborn. A Practical Approach. By E J Sell. (Pp. 336; illustrated + tables. \$29.75 hardback.) Thomas: Springfield. 1980.

Follow-up of the increasing numbers of low birthweight survivors has become fashionable in the USA. This book is the result of a conference on the subject held in Arizona in 1978. Brazelton, Kennell, Klaus, Lubchenco, and Parmelee are among the contributors. There are chapters headed 'Parenting in the premature nursery,' 'Early intervention and school programme for the pre-school handicapped', 'The role of parent groups', 'Legal implications of neonatal care', and 'The influence of caregiver:infant interaction on development'. Other topics such as bronchopulmonary dysplasia and retrolental fibroplasia find a place, and details are given of certain of the other physical scars of intensive care. Those involved would find this book worth reading.