for pressure monitoring, the measurement of cerebral blood flow and the relationship of this to diplegia of prematurity, or the arguments relating to nutritional encephalopathy—is discussed in detail. Subjects not considered are: Perinatal strokes and their possible relationship to placental embolisation or polycythaemia. Should we plasma-exchange hyperviscous neonates? Barbiturates and the limitation of asphyxial brain damage.

But despite its shortcomings this book is easy to read and well presented, and much of the vast amount of information has not previously been collected and published in the same volume. I recommend it to all paediatricians and paediatric neurologists.

J K BROWN

Pediatric Ultrasound. By J O Haller and M Schneider. (Pp. 279; illustrated + tables. £33.25 hardback.) Year Book Medical Publishers: London. 1980.

This is the third book devoted to this subject. It contains 279 pages and has 209 figures, many of which are composites of several illustrations. The authors, and the majority of the references, are North American which inevitably gives a very North American bias. Echocardiography and neonatal echoencephalography are not included but the abdomen, pelvis, and testes are covered comprehensively and there is an interesting section on the use of ultrasound in chest disorders.

A study of the references reveals the relative infancy of the subject; most of them originate in adult ultrasound practice. Fortunately the authors' personal experience is obvious in the text and amply compensates for this general lack of published data. There are some mistakes, and one that cannot pass without comment

is the statement that the size of the normal neonatal adrenal is one-third of that of the kidney; not even in Texas can this be correct!

Some of the illustrations are accompanied by explanatory drawings which should be very useful in helping clinicians to understand what most of them think is a mysterious method of investigation. Unfortunately for readers in the UK many of the illustrations are white on black as distinct from the standard black on white presentation to which they are accustomed, and this is confusing to anyone not used to having to understand images in both negative and positive forms. The images lose some of their value because of a surprisingly poor standard of reproduction. The bad illustrations coupled with the price of this book may discourage interest in it which would be regrettable because the text is well worth reading. It covers the subject extremely well and would undoubtedly aid clinicians who were in doubt about the use of ultrasound in a particular clinical problem.

C METREWELI

Studies in Perinatal Physiology. Edited by E M Widdowson. (Pp. 186; illustrated + tables. £20.00 hardback.) Pitman Medical: Tunbridge Wells. 1980.

McCance and Widdowson—the words roll off the tongue as naturally as eggs-and-bacon or gin-and-french, and with the same implication that each of the pair perfectly complements and enhances the quality of the other. Their long and productive partnership goes back to 1933, and as a variant of the many McCance and Widdowson publications this particular volume could well be described as *by Widdowson for McCance*.

In 1979 the Neonatal Society held a special meeting in Cambridge to mark Robert McCance's 80th birthday. A number of happy coincidences made the occasion especially felicitous; the Neonatal Society had been founded 20 years before Mac had been its first president, and Elsie Widdowson was now the current president. The first part of this volume is made up of the papers read at the meeting by G S Dawes, M Purves, Pauline Alexander, R D G Milner, and B A Wharton. The second part consists of 216 facsimile reprints of McCance's publications covering the years 1941–76, and beginning with the observation that there are important differences in renal function between the newborn and adult. This observation proved to be seminal, for it directed the attention of everybody concerned to the need to work out the normal physiology of the infant, unique as it is in so many ways. Until this was done paediatricians lacked a firm base from which to practise medicine in this age group.

Perusal of these publications will impress the reader with the beautiful clarity of Mac's writing. He possesses an enviable ability to make the reader feel that he is following an exciting story of discovery. Elsie Widdowson herself provides a delightful account of the earlier part of Mac's career and of some of his co-workers, notably Winifred Young who played an important part in the story until her sadly early death, and with whose brother Mac had trained to fly with the Royal Navy Air Service in the 1914–8 war. The only thing lacking is any mention by Elsie Widdowson of her own role in the famous partnership, a story still to be told some day.

DOUGLAS GAIRDNER