results in hypertrophic pyloric stenosis being cited as an example of a condition in which ultrasound might replace contrast studies, in the problematical case, but by the time the book had been published this had become the established pattern of practice in many centres. The book will be useful as reference for clinicians dealing with surgical conditions in infancy and childhood.

D G YOUNG

Laboratory Investigation of Fetal Disease. Edited by A J Barson. Pp. 504: £25.00 hardback. Bristol: Wright, 1981.

As Professor Davis says in his foreword to this book, there has been an accumulation of reliable information based on laboratory study about what the French charmingly call *la vie clandestine* of the foetus. Dr Barson, paediatric pathologist from Manchester, has collated this knowledge, with contributions from many experts in specialist fields, to put together an excellent book of great importance to everyone interested in perinatology. The book sensibly does not aim to be a detailed source of the practical minutiae of laboratory techniques; it is more a scientific and well balanced assessment of how far individual techniques have progressed, of what questions about foetal health the techniques can answer (or not answer), and of the limitations and dangers. Thus, while many perinatologists will know something about all the techniques mentioned and perhaps a lot about one such technique, all will appreciate an authoritative, well balanced description of what other techniques have to offer in 1981.

Dr Barson has chosen his contributors with care and edited carefully so that each contribution is dispassionate and not a trumpet blowing encomium for the contributor's own field. The scope of the book is best described by the sections. The first is 'Monitoring growth and distress', including radiology and foetal Po₂, heart monitoring, breathing movements, and encephalography, with hormone assay in maternal fluid. The second is 'Antenatal diagnosis of disease', with good chapters on the various techniques which peep into *la vie clandestine*. The third is 'Postnatal diagnosis of fetal disease,' concerned with infection, screening procedures, and an excellent chapter by the editor on the perinatal post mortem. The main criticism of the book

is that some of these techniques are so rapidly evolving that the forefront in 1981 is already a little out of date. For instance, there are few references more recent than 1979, and the screening test advocated for hypothyroidism is thyroid estimation, with thyroid stimulating hormone reserved for the lowest 2 to 3% of each day's specimens. None the less, this book will be essential reading for all scientists, research workers, and clinicians in the perinatal field. The author's intention 'that the book will provide a forum for the assessment of the diagnostic roles of various laboratory procedures so that medical centres currently expanding their perinatal services may benefit from the experience of others' is well fulfilled.

J W SCOPES

The Genetics of Neurological Disorders. By M Baraitser. Oxford Monographs on Medical Genetics No. 9. Pp. 516: £35.00 hardback. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1982.

This covers the genetics of neurological disorders and the manifestations of the major genetic disorders in childhood and adult life; it includes sections on migraine, cerebral palsy, learning disorders, and epilepsy. It does not attempt to cover visual and hearing disorders in a comprehensive way and chromosome abnormalities are also not included. The book is in a series on medical genetics and some of these topics will be included elsewhere in other volumes. The book is very successful indeed, combining a rigorous academic analysis of evidence for any genetic statement with clear concise English. Every condition has the appropriate references which produces a bibliography of over a hundred and thirty pages and in the short time that I have had the book this has proved invaluable. It is essential for all those concerned with the diagnosis and management of neurological disease in childhood and provides one of the clearest accounts of a group of conditions which often causes confusion.

The middle section of photographs is too small to be comprehensive and would not be used for identifying a dysmorphic syndrome and could therefore be usefully omitted. The section on the calculation of risks in muscular dystrophy contains some rather incomplete statements in the figures and one or two small misprints which make it quite difficult to follow,

although the inclusion of this section is a very good idea.

This book deserves a very warm reception. It is certainly worth £35.00 and it is to be hoped that the price will not prevent the book reaching all those who would benefit from having their own copy.

B G R NEVILLE

Shorter notices

Neuroblastoma. Clinical and Biological Manifestations. Edited by C Pochedly. Pp. 315: \$49.50 hardback. New York: Elsevier, 1982.

Neuroblastoma both retains a fascination and remains a major disappointment to paediatric oncologists. Our increased knowledge of this tumour is well illustrated in this comprehensive account of its clinical and biological manifestations. The limited sections on therapy reflect our lack of progress in its management. There is considerable repetition among chapters but all end with a useful reference list. This book will be a valuable aid to those in the field of childhood cancer.

Respiratory Illness in Children, second edition. By P D Phelan, L I Landau, and A Olinsky. Pp. 501: £35.00 hardback. Oxford: Blackwell, 1982.

A worthy successor to 'Williams and Phelan' has appeared. The seven year interval since the first edition has necessitated substantial changes but the clarity and depth of information, as well as the attractive presentation, should ensure continued popularity with clinicians. It is a little longer than its predecessor and three times as expensive.

Urinary Tract Infections in Children. By S. Hellerstein. Pp. 139: £11.75 paperback. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1982.

This clinically-orientated monograph offers a reasoned, comprehensive management regimen for most children with urinary tract infections. The book reflects a rather invasive approach and lacks sections on two important commonly encountered areas; the child with the abnormal urinary tract (other than vesicoureteric reflux), and the relation between incontinence and infection.