Book reviews

Viral Diseases of the Fetus and Newborn. 2nd ed. (Vol 17 in series Major Problems in Clinical Pediatrics). By J B Hanshaw, J A Dudgeon, W C Marshall. Pp 308: £45.00 hardback. W B Saunders, 1985.

This is an excellent book written by acknowledged experts, and will I am sure be of enormous help to both paediatricians and obstetricians. It forms volume 17 in the series, *Major Problems in Clinical Pediatrics*, and complements a previous monograph in this series on *Bacterial Infections of the Newborn*.

There are eight chapters dealing with specific viral infections, with the two chapters on congenital rubella and cytomegalovirus infection accounting for almost half the book. Additional sections deal with the development of immune mechanisms in the newborn, methods of prevention and treatment, and the use of laboratory investigations. The bibliography at the end of each chapter is excellent with up to date references, many from 1983 and a few as recent as 1984.

Congenital rubella is or should be preventable and it was disappointing to read that after 11 years of immunisation in the UK (up to 1982) no appreciable reduction in cases had occurred. Although the findings from the USA seem on the surface much better, it will be interesting to discover eventually which of the two widely different programmes is the best.

This book will probably not enable one to make a diagnosis of a congenital viral infection if not already thought of, but it will give clear guidance as to appropriate investigations, their interpretation, and management. Obstetricians, particularly, will find the table on the laboratory diagnosis of postnatal rubella helpful, and I valued the advice on the correct management of genital herpes in pregnancy and varicella-zoster infection in mothers and infants. For all those (probably the majority of us) who are totally confused by the nomenclature and importance of hepatitis B infections, there is again a most clearly written chapter. The section on prevention deals not only with current schemes of immunisation but also with antiviral chemotherapy and it is perhaps in this field that major advances in treatment will occur which will necessitate a further revision in another five years or so.

At £45 this book is good value and will be a most useful addition to any neonatal library.

P J CONGDON

A Guide to the Psycho-Motor Development of the Child. By J Gassier. Pp 149: £9.95 paperback. Churchill Livingstone, 1984.

This book describes the psychomotor development of young children. After a brief chapter on parental feelings and attitudes during pregnancy, the major portion of the book is a description of all aspects—motor, sensory, cognitive, and emotional and social—of the development of children aged 0 to 3 years. The descriptions are at monthly intervals during the first year, then 15 months, 18 months, 2 years, and 3 years. The factual text is supplemented by brief case histories and some superb pictures. There are two useful summaries, one textual and the other in cartoon form; both are excellent.

The descriptions of development are also accompanied by advice, particularly aimed at the mother, about what she *should* do at certain stages to promote psychomotor development. I found some of this too directive. There is a leaning towards psychoanalytical interpretations of some aspects of emotional development and in a book of this size, insufficient space to devote to alternative interpretations of behaviour. Despite the warnings about over interpretation of children's pictures, an extremely full guide of debatable validity has been included. I feel it might be better to have omitted the interpretation and concentrated on the descriptions of development of drawing which are clear and well illustrated. Some statements need reference for verification, for example '... a recent survey in the USA has shown that children with behavioural problems are, in the majority of cases, the children of intellectual parents who are very demanding as regards the type of language the child produces and who are unwilling to play childish games which they (wrongly) believe to be too "simplistic"'. Other studies would not support this statement as a generalisation about children's behaviour problems.

With the above criticisms and reserva-

tions, I think this book gives a *beautifully illustrated* and clearly laid out guide to the development of young children, which will be of use to paramedical and medical staff learning about child development. The summaries give a particularly handy reference which complements existing books on this subject.

GILLIAN BARD

The Injured Child. Edited by B F Brooks. Pp 248: \$35.00 hardback. University of Texas Press, 1985.

The Injured Child suffers from the problems which arise when the proceedings of a symposium are made into a book. One of the main problems is that it is not designed for a specific group of readers. I assume that the audience at the symposium included a lot of people whose work was not primarily paediatric, because I would have thought that most paediatric surgeons would be aware of the content of many of the chapters.

The chapters on child abuse and injury patterns in abused children did not contain anything new, nor did the chapter on the characteristics and treatment of abusive parents. Some of the figures given for the incidence of accidents in children go up to the age of 19 years and so are difficult to compare with the figures for this country. The chapter on snake bite injuries gives a picture of the American problems, with little relevance to this country. Although the chapters are individually titled there is no other index, so that any interesting facts one wants to look up involves laborious searching through several chapters.

Perhaps the best part of the book is some of the comments made by Everett Koop in his Robert Gross address and at the end of some sessions. He emphasised how important it was to remember that injury to a child results in injury to the child's family and the proper management of injury must include assessing all the factors that produced the injury and the effect that injury may have, not only on the child, but on the siblings or his parents. He made the point which many of us here would support wholeheartedly that much more concern should be given to the special needs of children and that there should be some