Book reviews

Clinical Pediatric Otolaryngology. T J Balkany and N R T Pashley. Pp 509: £46.50 hardback. C V Mosby Co, 1986.

This multiauthor contribution includes many authors from Colorado, but also others from a variety of North American centres. The book seems well-constructed and edited. There is a feeling of uniformity between the chapters by different authors that is often lacking in multiauthor textbooks. Moreover, the editors themselves have made significant contributions that are dispersed throughout the book.

It covers most aspects of paediatric otolaryngological practice, which is increasingly developing as a separate subspecialty within our field. After many of the chapters there are flow charts that will help residents in training. References are sometimes brief, and some of the illustrations are rather inadequate and some sections lack illustrations where they may have been helpful. The introductory section on general consideration is perhaps the weakest, and the chapter on allergic disease is particularly superficial in context considering the importance of the subject. There is, however, a useful contribution on the otolaryngological manifestations of systemic disease. The chapters on ear disease reflect a sensible approach to management but brevity in some sections is the limiting factor. The difficult question of microtia certainly merits inclusion of a wider variety of surgical options.

There is a full and interesting contribution on dentofacial development and upper airway obstruction that I particularly enjoyed. It is always unfortunate to see illustrations reproduced from other textbooks, especially if they are less than perfect as is the case in the section on nasal and sinus disease. By contrast, inclusion of other relevant diagrams in the section on laryngology may have enhanced the text. A further criticism of brevity might be levelled at the chapter on tumours and cysts of the neck. Generally the text is complete and easy to read but at a fairly basic level of scientific content. Nevertheless, at this price it is a reasonable purchase that will satisfy the needs of students and trainees in otolaryngology and paediatrics. It will shortly have to compete with a UK edition of Scott Brown, however, which now has a

volume devoted to paediatric otolaryngology. Most departments should purchase both volumes to be in a position to evaluate management regimens on each side of the Atlantic.

A R MAW

Orthopaedic Management in Cerebral Palsy. Eugene E Bleck. Pp 497: £28.00 hardback. Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1987.

This volume is concerned with a description of orthopaedic management in its widest sense of children and young people with cerebral palsy rather than with details of orthopaedic surgical procedures. Its aim is to present a relevant perspective on cerebral palsy to orthopaedic surgeons and also to physicians and therapists. As a result the first portion of the book is concerned with descriptions of cerebral palsy and its functional effects, how function can be assessed both clinically and by special investigations, and underlying neurobiological processes so far as these are understood. From this platform a detailed account is constructed of the outlook that can be expected for individuals affected by cerebral palsy and hence of the treatment and management goals that can reasonably be attempted. This section deals critically but fairly with the many physiotherapy systems that are available and advocated, and there is also a relatively brief discussion on the usefulness, or otherwise, of the wide array of aids and appliances including orthoses that are or have been in common usage. There follows three detailed sections on spastic hemiplegia, spastic diplegia, and where there is total body involvement. In all of these the details of various orthopaedic procedures are described and placed within the context of the overall management of individual patients. Professor Bleck's personal views and experiences give an authoritative and welcome air to this section of the book.

This is an important and useful volume. Its strengths are its perspective on the place of orthopaedic surgery in the management of cerebral palsy, its personal and critical evaluations of specific surgical procedures, its recognition of what 'science' can and

cannot offer in this field, and its emphasis on the need for appropriate team work to include both the patient and his family as well as professionals. The linguistic style makes for easy reading and the cited references are full. The book can be recommended for physicians, surgeons and therapists who have an interest in cerebral palsy as it is primarily a very helpful overview of orthopaedic management and is also a reference in respect of the place of individual surgical procedures.

L ROSENBLUTH

Medical and Experimental Mammalian Genetics: A Perspective. Edited by V A McKusick, T H Roderick, J Mori, N W Paul. Pp 358: \$69.50 hardback. Birth Defects: Original Article Series. Volume 23, Number 3. Alan R Liss Inc, 1987.

This is a collection of 14 papers to mark the first 27 years of a course held at the Jackson Laboratory on the beautiful coast of Maine. This 'Bar Harbor' course brings together medical and experimental mammalian geneticists and underlines the fact that they share much in terms of methods and research goals. This book shows the common areas and gives a glimpse of the enormous rate of progress in our understanding in these fields in recent years.

The first chapter gives a historical perspective on mammalian genetics referring mainly to progress in gene mapping. Papers on mammalian chromosome techniques of gene mapping, and the study of mutations follow. Evolution, both molecular and by the study of fossil records, is discussed in two fascinating chapters and the help given to those investigating human disease by the study of mouse models is well described.

Of particular interest to those involved in the care of patients are the excellent papers by Cavenee on recessive mutations at human cancer loci: particularly retinoblastoma and Wilms' tumour, but likely to be applicable soon to other cancers; and Wallace on diseases likely to be due to mitochondrial genes. Showing that it is not all theory there is a review of the detection of genetic disorders by DNA analysis.

which is now somewhat out of date because of the enormous rate of progress, and there is also speculation on the possibility of gene therapy. The editing, presentation, and illustrations are excellent. I enjoyed reading this overview of where mammalian genetics 'was at' in 1986.

DIAN DONNAI

Diagnosis and Management of Seizures in Children. Gregory L. Holmes. Pp 293. £26.95 hardback. Bailliere Tindall, 1987.

This single author book is volume 30 in the *Major Problems in Pediatrics* series and is well up to the standard of previous volumes in content and production. It is aimed primarily at the (North American) paediatrician and family practitioner but is equally appropriate for the British hospital or community paediatrician, whether established or in training. The author gives a comprehensive detailed account of the childhood epilepsies that could hardly be bettered. He is up to the minute in description, classification, and management. I found little to disagree with and many of my hobby horses are ridden with equal force and gusto. His accounts of the techniques and significance of electroencephalography and the pharmacology of anti-epileptic drugs are models of clarity with brevity. But he is equally at home with the clinical aspects and his straightforward descriptions, chapter by chapter, of non-epileptic episodic phenomena and of each of the childhood epilepsies are evidence of considerable clinical experience as well as a wide knowledge of the literature. His style is terse and easy to follow. There are many well constructed tables and diagrams that further clarify his meaning. The illustrations from electroencephalography are well chosen and well reproduced, which is often not the case in other publisher's texts. As a reference source it is excellent: the references are plentiful, well chosen and non-parochial, arranged in alphabetical order at the end of each chapter, and include some from 1985.

The European reader will inevitably compare this book with Niall O'Donohoe's *Epilepsies in Childhood* (2nd edition 1985),

which has established itself as the paediatrician's bible in the subject on this side of the Atlantic. This book is more prosaic and one misses O'Donohoe's occasional poetic asides, apt historical quotations, and penetrating insight into the psychosocial aspects of the subject. Holmes is uniformly down to earth, and he scores in his excellent handling of the basic scientific aspects. But both books are comprehensive, clear, readable, and up to date, and at a very similar price each is excellent value and ideally each paediatric department should have both volumes on their shelves.

BRIAN BOWER

Childhood Asthma. Pathophysiology and Treatment. Edited by David G Tinkelman, Constantine J Falliers, Charles K Naspitz. Pp 385. \$89.75 (USA/Canada), \$107.50 (all other countries) hardback. Marcel Dekker, 1987.

Childhood asthma is a disturbance of physiology brought about by a complex interaction of environmental influences on a genetic background. An understanding of reactive airways disease at this age requires a bringing together of knowledge from many disciplines including pathophysiology, biochemistry, and epidemiology as well as clinical diagnosis and treatment. This multiauthor book succeeds well in providing this broad based account of childhood asthma. There is a good balance between the basic sciences and clinical information, and there are lists of references to much recent work of importance.

The contributions on defence mechanisms of the lung and the role of inflammatory mediators in the regulation of airway calibre are particularly interesting. The British paediatrician may find less new information in the clinical chapters: for instance, the phrase 'not all that wheezes is asthma, however, almost all that wheezes is asthma' has a certain familiarity. The drug treatment of asthma has a North American flavour with as much discussion on theophyllines as β adrenergic agents and as much space devoted to ketotifen as sodium cromoglycate. There is much discussion on non-pharmacological approaches to the management of asthma (includ-

ing allergen control) but rather less on patient education and compliance. Although the index is poor (neither 'cough' nor 'eczema' is listed), this book is a very valuable contribution for all paediatricians dealing with childhood asthma.

J J COGSWELL

Atlas of Pediatric Physical Diagnosis. Edited by Basil J Zitelli and Holly W Davis. Pp 486. £65.00 hardback. Edward Arnold, 1987.

The title of this huge North American volume is misleading as it is a well illustrated textbook and not just a collection of illustrations. The text is extensive and extends well beyond the frontiers of diagnosis. Despite the high proportion of text, the large typeface and masses of mainly colour illustrations combine to give the book enormous visual appeal. The book is a pleasure to handle and easy to read. It is divided into 20 chapters covering most aspects of paediatrics, but there are no sections on oncology or malformation syndromes. The best sections are those on oral disorders, orthopaedics, and ear, nose, and throat. Those on gastroenterology, genetics and chromosomal disorders, and developmental paediatrics are especially weak. Not all sections lend themselves to photographs of patients. The chapter on cardiology contains numerous radiographs (especially barium swallows), and haematology is mainly illustrated by blood films.

Sadly too many illustrations are spoiled or obliterated by a pink or red hue, and several fail to show what is intended—for example, there is a nice colour illustration of a hypopigmented area of skin in a patient with tuberous sclerosis, the lesion becoming invisible on the matching picture taken under a Wood's light. Six pages describe the diagnosis and assessment of asthma in considerable detail but omit to mention measurement of the peak expiratory flow rate. Nurses and medical students will enjoy this book most; postgraduates are likely to find the sub-specialty sections the more useful and interesting.

T J DAVID