Book reviews

Screening for Hearing Impairment in Young Children. By B McCormick. Pp 110: £8.95 paperback. Croom Helm, 1988. ISBN 0-7099-4643-0.

This book concentrates on the methods of screening hearing of children between the ages of 6 months and 3.5 years of age. There is a very brief section on the concept of actual hearing screening but most of the book is directed to the practical aspects of the screening procedure. There are sections on the choice of stimuli used, the use of a sound level meter to measure stimuli, and on the actual technique for testing of babies with mental ages of 6-18 months, 18 months-2.5 years, and 2.5 years-3.5 years. For the older children there is also a discussion of suitable speech discrimination material and the author concentrates throughout on the test and procedures that have been developed in Nottingham. There is also a chapter covering acoustics, hearing, and causes of deafness, but medical readers would find this pitched at too basic a level. The final short chapter covers screening techniques that are being evaluated at the moment. These are really geared to the neonatal population and would be interesting for professionals not directly involved in the field who have gained some insight into present fields of investigation.

Overall this book would be of interest mainly to doctors and other professionals who are concerned with preschool hearing screening. The importance of the book lies in the very strong emphasis on accurate and reliable screening techniques with very clear instructions as to how the tests should be carried out. This is very important if countrywise we are to improve our present inadequate hearing screening programmes.

S BELLMAN

Burns in Children: Pediatric Burn Management. Edited by HF Carvajal and DH Parks. Pp 385: £56 hardback. Year Book Medical Publishers, 1988. ISBN 0-8151-1442-7.

This book provides as comprehensive a textbook on the subject as is available at this time, albeit from a distinctly transatlantic perspective. The opening section

on epidemiology and burn prevention in childhood is a major area of concern given the current magnitude of the problem of burns in children. Controversies in fluid resuscitation are reviewed in excessive detail with a somewhat unhelpful conclusion. The ensuing chapters contain much more practical management plans for resuscitation, dressing, antibacterial treatment, and nutrition, together with common pitfalls clearly outlined; this is valuable material for anyone getting to grips with burns management. Surgical treatment options are well described, and the chapters on wound cover and dressings are admirably up to date. Two further lengthy sections are devoted to infection, immunology, and organ failure.

The book ends with four excellent chapters on rehabilitation; the first on hypertrophic scarring is a succinct review of this controversial subject, which unfortunately does not deal with the changes induced by the various treatments which are currently available. The occupational therapist's role is well described, as are the readable descriptions of psychosocial care and discharge planning, which are so often given perfunctory consideration by attending surgeons. A short final chapter devoted entirely to discharge planning indicates the importance this subject is given in the editors' units.

This is a well planned book which should prove a useful reference volume for burns units. For the junior doctor learning burns management it may prove too detailed and indigestible unless a special interest is to be developed. The historical background passages and reference lists are comprehensive and very valuable. More than a little of the book is directed at burns in all age groups, and it occasionally lacks the specific paediatric concern which singles it out from the many other general burns texts.

T E E GOODACRE

L'Enfant et Sa Santé: Aspects Epidemiologiques, Biologiques, Psychologiques et Sociaux. Edited by M Manciaux, S Lebovici, O Jeanneret, EA Sand, and S Tomkiewicz. Pp 1326, UK price unstated. Doin Editeurs, Paris, 1987. ISBN 2-7040-0539-7.

In this ambitious multiauthor text a large number of contributors who are almost entirely from French speaking countries—especially France, Switzerland, and Belgium—have summarised information concerning the physical, social, and psychological development of the child. Evidently a public health approach to paediatric disorders and paediatric epidemiology is thriving in these countries as the abundant references to unfamiliar studies published in French journals made this reviewer, at least, feel inadequately parochial in his knowledge. There are especially good sections on the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and on accidents and accident prevention. The book will be found a valuable source of information by anyone seeking an up to date account of French social paediatrics.

P J GRAHAM

Childhood Pain. By D M Ross and S A Ross. Pp 384: £39.50 hardback. Urban and Schwarzenberg, 1987. ISBN 0-8067-1631-2.

A friend recently made a comment which surprised me at the time, suggesting that American thought is much more Teutonic than British, but this book illustrates that point. In a wealth of detail, it presents information about the history of our understanding of pain, methods for evaluating, managing, or preventing pain, with carefully documented references throughout, which ultimately constitute 12.3% of the total pages. This attention to detail which is its mark, as well as its intended interdisciplinary readership, make it rather difficult for the clinician to do more than learn from and perhaps build upon other peoples' research. There are, however, useful chapters, particularly an early one dealing with the child's view of pain in different age groups and a later one on behavioural and cognitive intervention before painful procedures and during pain.

Pain is seen to stem from a mix of factors which can be difficult to untangle: thus emotional and physical pain enhance each other. Kinds of pain discussed range from the acute pain (of dressing burns or of bone marrow aspiration) to chronic or recurrent