

Paediatricians will therefore find little with an immediate bearing on their clinical practice. Those, however, who are prepared to give a little time and thought to the fundamental physiology of the newborn will find the book rewarding.

Although many aspects of neonatal homeostasis are touched upon, some topics receive fuller treatment than others. Temperature regulation gets adequate coverage from June Hill, L. E. Mount and P. Hahn; perhaps some of the new work on human babies might have been a valuable complement to the piglets and the rats. The presence of Sir John Hammond, R. A. McCance and Elsie M. Widdowson ensured that nutrition was given due prominence and other aspects of metabolism were presented by Zetterström and Heather Shelley.

The central nervous system received a welcome amount of attention in an exciting account of the behaviour of anencephalic infants by J. D. Boyd and a review of neuro-chemistry by Richter. The endocrine function of the newborn was clearly described by Migeon who did not shirk the many unsolved problems. Dawes and Mott reported the recent developments from Oxford in regard to the cardiovascular system.

Clinical spice was added by L. S. James reporting on the biochemical changes occurring during asphyxia, and R. Usher on the treatment of these changes. Mahaffey spoke about the pulmonary syndrome in newborn foals. While most of the clinical work reported is familiar to most paediatricians, it is nevertheless of considerable interest to see it in the context of a biological symposium and to realize that clinical findings can still illuminate fundamental problems.

It is hardly necessary to add that the editing has been most efficiently done by Dr. G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Maeve O'Connor and that Messrs. Churchill have ensured that the book is pleasant to handle and easy to read.

**Manual of Pediatric Diagnosis.** 2nd ed. By LEWIS A. BARNES. (Pp. 208; 16 figures + 4 graphs. \$4.00; 30s.) Chicago: Yearbook Medical Publishers; London: Interscience. 1961.

The purpose of this little book is to stress the special methods used in physical diagnosis in children and as such it should be of value to medical students. This is an admirable aim and there is much sensible advice contained within these 200 pages.

However, the successful physical examination of infants and young children depends to such a great extent on the personality of the examiner, his patience and the skill only acquired after much experience that it is doubtful whether this can be learnt from any text-book.

This book contains a dozen adequate photographs to illustrate various techniques of physical examination and there is an appendix of 'Rare Syndromes with Characteristic Appearances', succinctly described; for example, 'children with progeria are very small, have no hair, look old and have a grey wrinkled skin'.

The printing is clear, the contents sensibly arranged, and the cost may discourage a ready sale.

**Fetal Electrocardiography and Electroencephalography.**

By RICHARD LEE BERNSTINE. (Pp. xii + 97; 61 figures. 44s.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas; Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1961.

This little book of about eight dozen pages is divided into two parts: the foetal electrocardiography takes three-quarters of the text, while the electroencephalographic aspects are covered in 26 pages. Some of the literature on the development of the human electrocardiogram is mentioned, as well as an outline of the embryology of the foetal heart. The technical aspects are largely a simplified summary of the 1956 Conference on Foetal E.C.G. A number of the expressions used are colloquial rather than technical, such as 'muscle artefacts', probably to indicate muscle action potentials, and 'skin noise', perhaps to indicate potential changes related to poor contact with the skin. Intrauterine and cervical electrodes are briefly mentioned without reference to the possible conditions in which these electrodes might be used to the advantage of either the patient or the foetus. Various features of the normal and abnormal foetal electrocardiogram are mentioned, and about two pages are devoted to the 'treatment of fetal cardiac disease'.

The second part of this booklet is devoted to the study of electroencephalography in the foetus. A very short summary on embryology and histogenesis of the brain is included. The description of the development of electrical potentials of the foetal brain seems to be derived partly from personal experience and partly from literature. There are several surprising statements on pages 68 and 69 which are too long to quote in a short review.

The illustrations in general are poor. A list of 92 references is given at the end of this small volume. The purpose of this publication is not obvious, and the text is not sufficiently fluent to appeal to the medical student. As an introduction to the problem of recording some physiological variables in the foetus, this book appears insufficiently informative. The paper is of good quality and the print is easy to read.

**Poliomyelitisprobleme.** Edited by ALBERT KUKOWKA. (Pp. xii + 280; 57 figures + tables. DM. 40.20.) Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1961.

Professor Kukowka's special interest in poliomyelitis is well known, and he has travelled widely to study all available methods of treatment. This book reports the proceedings of an international conference held in Dresden in June 1960, and shows a high standard of clinical study and carefully thought-out plans for treatment. It is interesting that the illustrated plan for Respiration Unit in Budapest contains three tank respirators, eight positive pressure machines and two rocking beds. The section on oral vaccines is now too out of date to be of much interest.