Contributions are somewhat vague in their approach, particularly one on cystometry, an investigation which has always suffered from a lack of precision. Many urologists, moreover, would regret the more extensive use of this method, as advocated here, as a preliminary to other more conventional studies in a wide variety of urological cases. Better and Nusslé review the problem of reflux, and Gentton, the long-term prognosis of hydrenephrosis, in two useful papers. Gautier contributes some valuable advice on the medical treatment of renal insufficiency due to congenital abnormalities. Finally, Girardet, Delarue and Rieschel give their experience of the bacteriological control of pyelonephritis, and give only cautious approval to the method of colony counts, which in some cases is both tedious and superfluous.


This beautifully produced volume is a record of the eighth annual scientific meeting of the Houston Neurological Society. A total of 343 of the 567 pages is devoted to hydrocephalus, including experimental production, genetics, pathological and radiological aspects, and clinical types. There are valuable contributions from workers from far afield, such as those of Donald Matson from Boston, George Anderson from Rhode Island, Julius Metrakos from Montreal, Sigvald Refsum from Oslo, and William Windle from Bethesda. Donald Matson contributes a useful chapter on the clinical evaluation of an infant with hydrocephalus, and Robert Pudenz writes a short section on the surgical treatment without, however, giving an account of the many clinical problems presented by the care of child with Spitz Holter valves and other shunts, or of the important and interesting pathological processes associated with them. It is to be regretted, in fact, that when the pathological aspect of hydrocephalus has been so comprehensively covered, the clinical side is too brief to be of great value.

Other sections of the book are devoted mainly to prenatal factors in relation to neurological disease, including brief discussions on the role of virus infections during pregnancy, on irradiation and on biochemical defects.

Many other important prenatal factors relevant to neurological disease are not mentioned, and much more detailed reviews of the role of virus infections and genetics are readily available elsewhere. Nevertheless, the chapters are authoritative and up to date.

This is not a clinical book, but it contains a great deal of useful information concerning the background of some of the neurological problems which confront paediatricians. Anyone concerned with such problems would certainly profit from reading this book, and should have it in his library.


This is the second edition of Dr. Leider's book which is aimed he says at busy paediatricians and general practitioners. It is plainly worth having a book of this sort because it provides a rapid answer to the question—'Does this disease occur in childhood?'—as well as looking at things from a special perspective. By p. 358 Dr. Leider has dealt with 120 common or important dermatoses, and in the final chapter he disposes of 100 minor or uncommon dermatoses. He provides numerous tables with tabulated information. Plainly a man of great experience, he knows and expresses the difficulty of dealing with the child (and its mother) afflicted with skin disease. His views on the relation of psyche to soma in dermatology are conservative and sound. He is well aware that dietary measures are not often helpful in the management of skin troubles. Thomas Bateman, in 1814, defined eczema as a non-contagious vesicular eruption, but Dr. Leider stretches the term to include vesicular virus diseases and fungus infections and yet, strangely, excludes infantile eczema (atopic dermatitis). Treatment is well covered and there is an excellent formulary of 101 preparations for topical application. Perhaps a word of warning should have been inserted about topical fluorohydrocortisone, since it may be absorbed and cause oedema. Also it may be questioned whether Fowler's solution should be recommended in the treatment of dermatitis herpetiformis in a child. Dr. Leider is interested and careful in the use of nomenclature, but he slips up in telling us that erythema contusiforme is another name for Bazin's disease; it is, in fact, another name for erythema nodosum and describes the bruise-like play of colour of the fading lesions. The book is well produced, well illustrated and well balanced, and it can be recommended.


In this short monograph the authors, after a general discussion on the various methods used for the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the amino acids present in urine and a review of publications on physiological and pathological aminoaciduria, report the results they have obtained with the Stein and More's method (column chromatography on ion exchange resin) on a small number of patients they have studied, six normal children, three premature babies and 14 other children with the following conditions: malnutrition with protein deficiency (four cases); cystinosis (two cases); phenylpyruvic oligophrenia (one case); alkaptonuria (one case); glycogen disease (one case); Marfan's syndrome (two cases); hyperazotaemic renal dwarfism (one case); somatic infantilism of unknown origin (one case); lead poisoning in infancy (one case).
The monograph is written in an attractive, clear style; the graphs of chromatographic analysis are numerous and of good quality. At first glance it arouses interest because of the variety of cases studied and the good manner of presentation. Unfortunately for every condition the number of children considered is insufficient to enable the authors to reach satisfactory conclusions.

The reader is unable to overlook the inaccurate presentation of bibliographical material. This is evident from the discrepancies in the references.


The title of this symposium is somewhat misleading as most of the lectures deal with the general aspects of fat metabolism, but there is also much valuable clinical material which should be of interest to both biochemists and clinicians.

The first lecture by N. Zöllner (Munich) gives a comprehensive account of the metabolism, digestion and transport of dietary fats. The author stresses the importance of fats rich in unsaturated fatty acids in the reduction of the plasma cholesterol level. He then reviews recent experiments on the transport of long and short chain fatty acids and discusses the role of heparin as a clearing agent in lipoaemia.

R. Blomstrand (Lund) further investigates the lowering effect of unsaturated fatty acids on the plasma cholesterol level, using the technique of gas chromatography. He shows, in a series of remarkable experiments, that unsaturated fatty acids are used preferentially for the esterification of cholesterol.

Further studies on the metabolism of highly unsaturated fatty acids are described by K. Schreier (Heidelberg). He reviews the symptoms caused by a dietary deficiency of essential (unsaturated) fatty acids; these are aggravated by the administration of cholesterol. In reviewing the many functions of linoleic acid, one must regard it as a highly essential fatty acid. It is absorbed faster than any other fatty acid, and is incorporated more rapidly into the tissues, particularly into the brain lipids and phosphatids of young mammals. Finally, the author includes a useful table showing the fatty acid composition of a number of dietary fats.

Alimentary lipoaemia is discussed in some detail in a lecture by M. Eggstein (Marburg). The author has compared the effects of various dietary fats and related their chemical composition to the lipoaemia produced. The most important fact which emerges from this somewhat discursive lecture is that a dietary mixture composed of medium chain fatty acids produces little or no lipoaemia, while the remaining fatty acids, so far as they are absorbed at all, cause considerable lipoaemia. This is tentatively explained by the fact that medium chain fatty acids are transported directly to the liver by the portal system.

H. W. Ocklitz, H. Schmitz and L. Weh (Berlin) describe their nutritional experiments with 'humanized' cows' milk. Paediatricians should find of interest their comment that when cows' milk is 'humanized' no adjustments are usually made for the quantitative and qualitative differences in the fat content of cows' milk and breast milk. The fat content of the latter has often been estimated too low. In the authors' experiments fat supplements were added to a brand of 'humanized' milk so that the effects on the growth rate of newborn babies and 4-week-old premature babies could be compared under iso-caloric conditions. Their final results showed, however, that it is the carbohydrate content of 'humanized' milk which is the most important factor in maintaining a steady growth rate.

The lecture which is of particular interest to paediatricians is by S. Rafstedt (Angelholm) on dietary fat problems in coeliac disease. Once again the importance of unsaturated fatty acids in the diet is stressed. The main part of the lecture describes various fat diets given to a 6-year-old boy with severe coeliac disease, and the resultant fat absorption and faecal fat measurements. It is clear from these experiments that in coeliac disease there is a marked difference between the absorption of animal and vegetable fats, and that the unsaturated fatty acids are absorbed better than the saturated ones. In spite of this, corn oil (unsaturated fatty acids) has no protective action on the presence of gluten in the diet. Turning to the contents of the small intestine the coeliac patient appears to have normal gastric secretions, but impaired water absorption. Finally, the author discusses the role of the long-standing intestinal infection as a causal factor of coeliac disease.

There is also a short lecture by H. Wolf (Göttingen) on the role of intestinal flora in the production of faecal fat, and a further lecture by H. Wolf and H. Löhr (Göttingen) on the determination of serum lipids in babies and the application of the methods to show that cows' milk, in which 70% of the fat is replaced by corn oil, gives the lowest serum cholesterol value in babies. The last two lectures by H. Kind (Giesen) and R. Beckman (Freiburg) are interesting accounts of the metabolism of vitamin A and vitamin E respectively.


This is the fourth edition of a handy reference to investigation, feeding and treatment. Based on the practice at the Birmingham Children's Hospital it could usefuly have a wider appeal.

In 13 sections—some coloured for easier reference—it is available in a paper-backed edition or in a loose-leaf edition to which extra leaves can be added for notes.

After sections on normal data, laboratory investigations, and infant feeding, there is one on fluid and electrolytes, a comprehensive summary and guide to replacement. There is a plastic page with a calculator for requirements up to 3 weeks of age and also for over 3 weeks for fluid, sodium, potassium and plasma. Then follow sections on the management and treatment of