**Disorders Due to Intestinal Defective Carbohydrate Digestion and Absorption.** Edited by P. DURAND. (Pp. 190; 48 figures + 12 tables. Lire 5000) Rome: Il Pensiero Scientifico Editore. 1964.

The interest stimulated by the suggestion, first made by Durand in 1958, that a deficiency of intestinal lactase might be a cause of diarrhoea and failure to thrive in infancy has resulted in the accumulation of a considerable amount of knowledge on this subject. Diarrhoea in the infant is such a common problem in paediatrics that any fresh view that will clarify a specific cause in those cases in which so far none has been found is always of great importance.

This interesting monograph consists of four articles by different authors, all of whom have been active in this field of research, and one of whom, P. Durand, is the editor. Each deals with a different aspect of defective disaccharide metabolism. The first, by A. Dahlqvist, clearly sets out the present knowledge, much of it the result of his own work, on the different disaccharidases present in intestinal mucosa, both in animals and humans. Fermentative diarrhoeas are discussed by H. A. Weyers and van de Kamer, including not only the congenital primary enzyme defect but also secondary deficiencies. The third chapter, by P. Durand, deals particularly with congenital lactose intolerance but gives a useful summary of secondary causes also. The last chapter by Nordio and Lamedica is concerned mainly with the congenital form of sucrose intolerance.

All the articles are of a high standard, give a full description of both the clinical and biochemical aspects, and so far as can be judged, a complete list of references. More rigorous editing would have eliminated a certain degree of duplication of material, a lack of uniformity in the tabulation of references, and of errors in spelling and phraseology irritating to the English reader. Though the illustrations and diagrams are mainly adequate, a few are bad. The price is rather high for a paper-back with a binding so poor that many pages are loose. Despite these faults, this monograph can be recommended to all paediatricians who wish to be informed of a recent and fascinating advance in one corner of paediatrics.

**Die Angeborenen Stoffwechselanomalien.** Grundlagen, Klinik. Therapie. By K. SCHREIER, with the assistance of H. MATTERN, V. PORATH, and H. SPRANGER, and with a contribution by H.-G. LASCH. (Pp. viii + 384; 36 figures + 15 tables. DM. 59.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1963.

This textbook of diseases of metabolism is written for the clinician. Strict emphasis is placed on the clinical aspects of metabolic diseases and on their treatment, and the pathogenesis and biochemistry are discussed in relevance to the clinical picture. The book is a comprehensive compendium which covers an extremely wide field in a concise factual style without sacrifice of essential information.

The various diseases are discussed under the heading of the appropriate metabolic disturbance, i.e. amino acid, protein, carbohydrate; each chapter is subdivided under the headings of clinical picture, laboratory findings, pathogenesis, prognosis, treatment, and heredity. This clarity helps one to look up rapidly any single aspect of any condition and makes the book a handy reference manual for the busy paediatrician. Numerous graphs and tables have been included to clarify and illustrate the various subjects.

The comprehensive bibliography covering the international literature at the end of each chapter facilitates wider reading, and the historical notes at the head of the chapters are very interesting.

This excellent book is sure to be very popular even beyond the confines of German-speaking countries.

**Water and Electrolyte Metabolism II.** Proceedings of the Second Symposium on Water and Electrolyte Metabolism, Amsterdam, 1963. (West-European Symposia on Clinical Chemistry Volume 3.) Edited by J. DE GRAEFF and B. LEIJNSE. (Pp. viii + 251; 127 figures + 35 tables. 60s.) Amsterdam, London, New York: Elsevier. 1964.

This volume contains the proceedings of a symposium held in Amsterdam in May 1963. The first half is devoted to fundamental problems of sodium transport and excretion. The remaining sections deal with rare syndromes causing persistent hypokalaemia in children, calcium and phosphorus metabolism, and the treatment of renal failure. The reports and discussion on 'new' hypokalaemic syndromes are especially valuable since relatively little published information on this important topic is yet available. Stanbury contributes an excellent review of his extensive experience of calcium and phosphorus metabolism in chronic renal failure. There is also a stimulating paper by Morel on the action of neurohypophysial hormones on the active transport of sodium.

In the section on renal failure the last two papers have unfortunately become inextricably mixed through a compositor's error. The book is otherwise well produced by offset lithography.

Is it, however, too much to hope that proceedings of symposia will in future appear in paper covers within two months and at half the cost of this volume?

**Einführung in die Entwicklungsphysiologie des Kindes.** Edited by HEINRICH WIESENER. (Pp. xi + 431; 140 figures + tables. DM.86.) Berlin, Göttingen, Heidelberg: Springer-Verlag. 1964.

This textbook on developmental childhood physiology inevitably demands comparison with Brock's awe-inspiring 'Biologische Daten für den Kinderarzt'. At first reading one might be tempted to call Prof. Wiesener's book a poor man's Brock. This would be unfair. Though the work leans heavily on Brock's, it also complements it and in many important aspects brings our knowledge up to date.

Several chapters stand out because of their excellence. It would be impossible to fault the account of the cardiovascular system, which deals with every aspect of