the subject from foetal life to adolescence and is packed with an enormous amount of factual information. There
is a plethora of data, discovered by the most sophisticated
methods, and it is intriguing here to come across
Pirquet's observation that, throughout childhood, if the
heart rate is counted for as many seconds as the child's
sitting height in centimetres, the result will be 100. This
reviewer is still mystified by the significance of this infor-
mation.

The chapters on hepatic and renal physiology are
concise, clear, and uncluttered. In particular the
accounts of bilirubin metabolism and renal tubular
function are impressive. Similarly the pages dealing
with electrolyte balance and homeostasis are out-
standing both in their clarity and brevity. Lastly, the
section dealing with immunity makes a complicated
subject as lucid as any the reviewer has come across.

The chapters on growth and those on the blood are also
good. Those on digestion are adequate but not out-
standing. Several statements might be questioned, such
as 'the experience of decades has shown the need to offer
bottle-fed infants a low-fat milk' (p. 196) and 'the central
nervous system of the newborn appears to be insensitive
to hypoglycaemia' (p. 208).

The part dealing with the physiology of respiration is
seriously inadequate. Recent research into respiratory
adaptation of the newborn and the prematurely born
infant, surely one of the most pressing paediatric problems
today, is yet barely touched upon (p. 85). The section on
endocrinology is only just adequate, the account of
adrenocortical function having been seriously skimped—
vide the vestigial reference to aldosterone function and
dysfunction.

Conversely, the editor seems to have allowed Prof.
Rodeck too much space for his account of the hypo-
physial-hypothalamic regulation of body water. This
chapter is far too advanced for a book that claims to be an
introduction to the developmental physiology of the child.

Perhaps more serious is the lack of balance in the
account of child neurology. It is crammed with
neuropsychological and anatomical facts, yet no clear
picture of the evolution of cerebral function emerges, and
several statements are either vague or misleading.

No reference is made to the work of André-Thomas or
Yves Chesnoin. The contrast between this worthy but
plodding presentation and the elegant descriptions by
Dutch and French workers is illuminating.

Finally, what a pity there is no separate chapter on
placental function. References to the organ are scattered
throughout the book, though only a few appear in the
index.

One hopes that these shortcomings will be remedied in
the next edition, for there should be a next edition, since
this book could be, and up to a point is, an important
contribution to paediatric literature.

Needless to say the volume is beautifully bound,
beautifully arranged, and printed as are almost all
publications bearing the Springer Verlag imprint. The
graphs, drawings, photographs, and tables are admirably
clear, and errors in the bibliographical reference numbers
and the index are rare.

The Lung and its Disorders in the Newborn Infant. By
MARY ELLEN AVERY. (Volume I in the Series Major
Problems in Clinical Pediatrics) (Pp. xv — 224; 72
figures — 14 tables. 52s. 6d.) Philadelphia and

The many who know Dr. Avery's published work or
have heard her lecture will expect great things from this
book and in general they will not be disappointed. She
is able to bring two important faculties to bear. First,
she moves with equal assurance in both the clinical and
physiological fields, and therefore naturally describes
clinical phenomena in terms of the underlying physiology.
Secondly, her approach is a properly critical one, so that
she is not tempted to go further in theorizing than the
established facts allow. This is particularly valuable in
subjects like the cause and the treatment of hyaline
membrane disease, where her approach is in marked
contrast to that of many who, in the past, have been
prepared to erect imposing (but wrong) theories upon
inadequate facts.

As would be expected, the physiological sections are
excellent, particularly those concerned with the properties
of excised lungs, a subject that Dr. Avery has herself
pursued with such interesting results. There are, how-
ever, one or two important subjects that are rather
surprisingly hardly touched on. The oxygen situation
of the baby at birth and during the ensuing minutes and
hours is one such. Again, though the morphology of the
lung of the foetus is well described, the O₂-CO₂ status of
the human foetus is not. It is no longer true to say that,
'the degree of oxygenation of the human fetus in utero
is not known', in view of the accumulated observations
by Saling in Berlin, which have shown how neonatal respira-
tory problems are often only to be understood if viewed
as a continuance of a prenatal state.

The author's style is clear and concise and in 200 pages
she is able to give an account of even the rarer lung
conditions, which the clinician with an urgent problem on
his hands would otherwise be hard put to find described.
The illustrations and diagrams succeed in showing what
they are intended to. The list of some 600 references
includes almost all the important papers on the subject,
and will be one of the most useful parts of the book.
The format is agreeable.

Without doubt the possession of this book will be a
sine qua non for anyone concerned with looking after
newborn babies, and indeed this reviewer knows few
better ways for a paediatrician to spend £2 12s. 6d.
than to buy a copy.

The Nursing Care of Children. 2nd ed. By INEZ L.
ARMSTRONG and JANE J. BROWDER. (Pp. ix — 699;
220 figures. 60s.) Philadelphia: F. A. Davis;

This large volume contains an immense amount of
valuable material not all of which is essential to those
practising nursing care of children. An introductory
chapter deals with modern concepts and refers to the
disadvantage to senior nurses of physical separation from
their patients. Is the ultimate disadvantage to the patient