unfamiliar with the subject these are probably inadequately detailed, and to one familiar with it they are redundant. Further space is devoted to a series of expanded examples of normal electrocardiograms at various ages, much of which could be adequately presented in tabular form. Indeed, one commendable point is the provision of an additional loose series of tables available for ready reference separate from the book. It is useful to have vector loops available under the scalar electrocardiograms. The examples are profuse and attractively presented—indeed, it is as an atlas of electrocardiograms that this book might have its greatest value. There is an adequate index, but strangely an important subject like aortic stenosis is not listed.


This, presumably, is the German counterpart of 'Nelson'. It has 1,142 glossy, double column pages, as opposed to Nelson's 1,636. 24 experts co-operated in Germany, and 85 co-operated in the American book.

Obviously, no basic criticism can be levelled at this type of publication, but, as with almost all textbooks, the reviewer can pick a hole here and there: the references are scanty—a fact admitted by the editors. Does anyone really use an ECG in pyloric stenosis to assess electrolyte depletion? How is the poor reader to react when he is first told that recurrent abdominal pain is one of the commonest 'non-organic' complaints of childhood and then urged to exclude more than a dozen organic disorders by asking for a vast number of investigations, including an EBG. It is simply not true that most homozygous sicklers die in childhood. Lastly, the feeding table, giving the exact millilitre amounts of milk, water, sugar, and (later on) flour, which German babies are thought to need from the second day of life right up to 6 months, seems completely unpractical.

Even so, the book is well produced, well printed, strongly bound, and has a good index. It is quite cheap at the price. However, I doubt if this volume is a 'must' for English-reading students of paediatrics.


This comprehensive account of a subject which is currently exciting considerable interest and active research has been kept commendably up to date, partly by the expedient of adding a brief appendix to cover some very recent developments. The regulatory mechanisms concerned in maintaining a normal level of glucose in the blood are discussed very fully, and there is a most authoritative and useful chapter on the laboratory tests that can be used in investigating a case of spontaneous hypoglycaemia. Both these, as well as the (much shorter) chapter on 'Hypoglycaemia in Children' will be of direct help to the paediatrician's understanding and management of his clinical problems, but the authors are least sure in their handling of the newborn, both as regards diagnosis and treatment. There is a large number of pertinent references to the literature (118, 112, and 102 at the end of the three chapters mentioned) and there is a full and effective index.

The style is, unfortunately, often not as clear as it might be, as in the sentence 'High fasting insulin levels in the presence of hypoglycaemia occur in infants of diabetic mothers, in Dornandy's syndrome, and in 1-leucine sensitivity, but in the latter condition insulin levels are not raised in the fasting state'. The authors are protagonists of the term 'neurolglyco-penia' in preference to 'symptomatic hypoglycaemia', but spoil their never very good case by seeming to use the two indiscriminately. There are many places where this reviewer felt that a judicious use of hyphens would have made the sense clear at first reading.

The book is as well produced as might be expected, but the cost is disappointingly high for one which ought to find a place on every paediatrician's shelves—but will only cover a relatively narrow segment of his work.


In his foreword to the second edition of Cleft Palate and Speech, Professor Kilner emphasized the relation between good surgical repair and good speech, ideally resulting in close collaboration between all those concerned in the treatment of cleft palate. Often, while such ideals are voiced there is a mutual failure to communicate. Possibly the biggest contribution of this book is that which it makes to understanding between surgeon, orthodontist, and speech therapist. In it Miss Morley ably reviews the whole field, bringing together and making comprehensible with the aid of diagrams, photographs, and tables each aspect of the problem.

She begins by summarizing the present state of knowledge on the incidence and aetiology of cleft palate and goes on to discuss the functioning of the normal palate. Both sections have been brought up to date in this edition with the inclusion of information on recent findings. Chapters on the development of cleft palate surgery and the problems associated with cleft palate contain new data, including some on recent advances in surgical techniques, current theories on the optimum age for surgery, and modifications in orthodontic treatment. Mention is also made of new methods for the assessment of palatopharyngeal competence.

The author's many years of experience are reflected in the section on the assessment and treatment of speech, which contains a wealth of detailed information and practical suggestions. The case histories which conclude the book provide illustrative reading and serve to substantiate points made throughout.

Cleft Palate and Speech has long been a standard work for students of this subject. The reorganization of existing material and the addition of information on more recent findings has brought a useful and compact book up to date.