born to diabetic mothers with vascular complications, but no diabetic mothers in this study had proliferative retinopathy or nephropathy.

DAVID BARR introduced by PROFESSOR J. O. FORFAR (Edinburgh). 'An Oral Calcium Test in Infancy.' An oral calcium test feed has been designed to investigate the handling of dietary calcium as reflected by short-term changes in the serum calcium level. The response of a normal control group is defined and compared with results in infants suffering from a variety of calcium disorders.

In the acute phase of idiopathic hypercalcaemia, an extremely high and prolonged hypercalcaemia is found after the test feed. The effects of treatment and recovery are followed.

In further infants who were not strikingly hypercalcaemic, abnormal loading tests suggested that the test was a more sensitive diagnostic index than sporadic estimates of serum calcium. The test may be a guide to the need for continuing therapy, and a persistently abnormal loading test has been associated with a poor long-term prognosis.

In patients with nutritional rickets, vitamin D caused a 'shift to the left' in the shape of the loading curve. A similar effect was seen in a group with neonatal tetany when those undergoing spontaneous recovery were compared with those given vitamin D. The curves obtained in infants with idiopathic hypercalcaemia were compared with those in infants receiving vitamin D.

I. B. HOUSTON introduced by PROFESSOR J. A. DAVIS (Manchester). 'Renal Tubular Acidosis and Growth Retardation.' To be published in full elsewhere.

J. T. HARRIES introduced by DR. JUNE K. LLOYD (London). 'Studies of Vitamin E Function in Children with Malabsorption.' Though symptoms of Vitamin E deficiency are easily recognized in animals, the clinical importance of this vitamin in man is less well established. Vitamin E is a powerful antioxidant and probably plays a part in the functional integrity of cell membranes. This paper reported investigations on the vitamin E status of children with various types of malabsorption. The function of the red cell membrane has been studied by estimating autohaemolysis and peroxide haemolysis of the cells, and then correlating these effects with the serum levels of the vitamin. Many of the children with low serum levels of vitamin E ( < 0.5 mg./100 ml.) had increased red cell haemolysis. Where-