**Book Reviews**

This is a book that should be permanently at hand in all centres caring for the newborn.

**Die intermittierende Kontrastmittelinjektion in das Herz.** By **NIKOLAUS SCHAD.** (Pp. 116; 47 figures + 30 tables. DM. 47.50.) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1967.

An accurate anatomical as well as haemodynamic diagnosis has become an essential step towards surgical correction of congenital heart disease. No matter how radiological recording is made, whether by cine-angiocardiography, on roll-film or cut-film, multiple selective injections into the various chambers of the heart and great arteries have become standard practice. Yet one of the problems has been the fact that such injections are not without their dangers, especially in the very ill and the very young. Dr. Schad, Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Radiology of Zürich University, has for some years worked on techniques to reduce the amount of contrast medium necessary to give good visualization and on the means of timing such injections within any part of the cardiac cycle. This little monograph describes the result of his work and gives the theoretical, technical, and cardiological basis of his studies.

The book begins with an introductory discussion of the aims of the work followed by a description of the method, a theoretical discussion of the relation between the amount and rate of injection, timing of injection, and degree of contrast medium dilution. The author then gives a detailed description and discussion of the technique of intermittent contrast medium injection, including a full account of the apparatus developed by him and his collaborator, Dr. J. P. Stucky, who designed an injection pump with a very rapid pressure rise, the prerequisite for intermittent timed injections. The various radiological aspects are then discussed in relation to the injection technique. The text ends with a short description of the application of the method to the study of congenital and acquired heart lesions.

There is a good list of references and a satisfactory subject index. The text is complemented throughout by excellent diagrams, tables, and x-ray reproductions.

The organization of the material and the style of writing are such that anyone familiar with angiocardiology will be able to understand the text, even though his command of German be limited. The method described by Dr. Schad is an elaboration and refinement of existing ones: it is of considerable practical value, and a careful study of the book will prove profitable, particularly to those who investigate young children with congenital heart disease. The only cautionary note must be that the cost of the apparatus (‘Contrac Syringe’) which is an essential part of the described method is, in this country, formidable: manufactured by Siemens and marketed by Sierex Ltd., it costs £2630.


This monograph, which is accompanied by a large bibliography, discusses the monitoring of ventilation in newborn and children under anaesthesia. It advocates the use of the pneumotachygraph, and stresses once again that when infants are on artificial ventilation this can be controlled adequately only if estimates of either alveolar gases or arterial gases are undertaken. As the measurements were made in 21 children with an age range from 8 hours to 3 years, it cannot be said to give adequate values for normality.


This volume is the third edition of the work since 1957, and during this period it has also been reprinted on three occasions. Such demand for a specialist textbook is adequate testimony to its popularity, which in turn is based upon the extensive scope of the volume which is firmly based upon the work and experience of the surgeons at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

The present edition is brought up to date largely by adding fresh material, and this is now a bulky volume written in a style which is often clumsy to English ears. Consequently even individual chapters, written principally on a regional basis, are difficult reading at one sitting.

Nevertheless, the coverage of orthopaedic surgery of childhood is wide, and a list of references from the literature, principally American but some British, is given with each chapter.

Naturally the emphasis on management of orthopaedic conditions varies between Britain and the United States as well as in various centres in these countries. Consequently the stress in this volume on the use of corrective splints for conditions of young children's feet and legs is greater than in standard British practice. On the other hand, less stress is placed on the conservative management of scoliosis, while the treatment recommended for congenital dislocation of the hip is similar to that recommended in most centres in this country. The section on rheumatoid arthritis is particularly incomplete and gives no clear guidance on the use of steroids, and no references.

The book is well printed and illustrated and will continue to provide valuable information for postgraduate training. When a fourth edition is produced, as will surely become necessary, it is to be hoped that the text will be condensed and the references brought up to date, as comparatively few refer to work published in the past decade.