

Book Reviews

Paediatric Urology. Edited by D. Innes Williams. (Pp. x + 585; illustrated. 170s.) London: Butterworths. 1968.

Probably most paediatricians would regard the urologist as the most indispensable of any of his colleagues, so many, so varied, and so difficult are the urological problems encountered in young children. Only in recent years have the full resources of urological diagnosis been concentrated on these problems, and it is only now that we are beginning to gain some proper long-term information about them.

This book is written in the main by four paediatric urological surgeons (D. Innes Williams and H. B. Eckstein from Great Ormond Street, J. E. S. Scott from Newcastle, and J. H. Johnston from Liverpool), so that the emphasis is surgical. Medical aspects are covered by D. N. S. Kerr of Newcastle, D. G. Cottom, and G. H. Newns of Great Ormond Street, with a chapter on radiological investigation by D. R. Chrispin of Great Ormond Street.

The traditional dogmatism of surgeons is noticeably absent, and the many important issues where existing facts are insufficient to allow any firm conclusion are in general well handled. The chapter on undescended testicle by Johnston, for instance, exemplifies this judicial approach, and gives additional little-known facts, such as, that even in unilateral maldescent fertility tends to be low. The surgical contributions also reflect in a refreshing way the experiences of their authors who are prepared to state their personal views rather than merely reiterate prevailing opinions. Thus Scott devoted a chapter to a critical review of the concept of 'bladder outflow obstruction' and, concludes that unless there is unequivocal evidence of mechanical (as opposed to 'functional') obstruction, operations on the bladder neck are unjustified.

On the other hand, some of the medical sections seem more lacking in these desirable qualities. One wonders, for instance, whether the description of acute nephritis reflects the personal experiences of the author (Kerr), or merely repeats traditional views. Thus, acute *post-streptococcal* nephritis, which probably has a mean 100% recovery rate rather than the '80% + ' quoted (in Fig. 17), is not clearly differentiated from the *non-streptococcal* group which, at least in this country, seems to provide most of the cases of acute nephritis that fail to recover.

Here and there, inevitably, one notes statements which are debatable: that *all* cases of acute urinary infection require complete (i.e. radiological) investigation; that chemotherapy for any urinary infection should be continued for 6 months; that acute nephritis should be treated with penicillin whether or not streptococci are present in a throat swab; and that the retractable

testicle 'can be readily' manipulated into the scrotum.

Over-all this is an excellent book, and the best text on the subject available. Production and illustrations are adequate, but it is a pity that the value of references is impaired by not providing their titles.

Encyclopedia of Urology. Vol. VII/I Malformations. Edited by C. E. ALKEN, V. W. DIX, W. E. GOODWIN, H. W. WEYRANCH, and E. WILDBOLZ. (Pp. xiii + 479; 348 figures + tables. DM.196; \$49.00.) Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer-Verlag. 1968.

This well-produced volume is one of 23 which comprise the 'Encyclopedia of Urology'. Though much of the information has been included in Volume XV, 'Urology in Childhood' (1958), the multiple authorship has enhanced this later work, which is complete in itself and up to date.

Twelve American authors have written the 10 chapters of this excellent book. In the opening pages on vesicoureteral reflux, J. A. Hutch and A. D. Amar clearly describe the anatomical and physiological principles involved. Later these two authors give an account of the anomalies of the ureter, including their diagnosis and management, and F. Farman's contribution on the anomalies of the kidney concludes with a useful bibliography of 11 pages. There are two chapters on bladder abnormalities, one by V. F. Marshall and E. C. Muecke which includes the development of the bladder and the features and treatment of vesical defects; in the other chapter, on anomalies of the bladder neck, J. J. Murphy and T. A. Tristan illustrate their experience of cinefluorographic voiding cystourethrography with numerous 'shots'. The sixth chapter by K. Waterhouse is concerned with urethral anomalies, and deals with the problem of urethral valves. Next, R. J. Prentis describes his method of treatment of undescended testicle based on the shortest distance principle; the inclusion of the clinical and functional results would have enhanced this expert study.

Next, O. S. Culp and J. W. McRoberts fully review the many procedures for the treatment of hypospadias and contribute their experience of construction of 'more than 70 linear feet of new water tight urethra' in the past 15 years. The concluding two chapters by H. W. James on the anomalies of the female genitalia and the intersex state are both excellent contributions. The latter consisting of 80 pages fully deals with the problem of sex identification and the varieties of hermaphroditism. Each chapter is well illustrated by photographs and line drawings which clearly show the clinical state and the various operative procedures.

Thus, in this volume, most of the genito-urinary