evolution of the interaction between mother and child. The editor’s own article on ‘fathering’ attempts to remedy the excessive preoccupation with mother-child relationships characteristic of child psychiatry until recently.

S. A. Szurek provides an excellent summary of the needs of the child at different stages of development. His account of the later stages seems to be marred by excessive fear (common among American workers) of the effects of trauma and conflict on the child. The account is otherwise clear and sensible. S. Lebovici, in a paper which I found particularly interesting, summarizes attempts to integrate knowledge derived from psychoanalytic investigation on the one hand, and research based on systematic observation of child development on the other.

J. Howells, in a second challenging paper, attacks the misleading equation of parental deprivation with separation from the parents. This is perhaps more relevant to those working in the field of child care, where careless misinterpretations of the research on maternal deprivation produce much damage through avoidance of separations in cases where this could be beneficial or even vital. An excellent and up-to-date review of the literature on relationship of cultures to child rearing practice and to personality development is provided by M. K. Opler, while more detailed studies of particular cultures are provided by L. Miller, who reviews research on the effects of child rearing in the environment provided by Israeli kibbutzim, and by K. Makita and K. Okonogi, whose account of Japanese attitudes and family dynamics demonstrates both the limited development of child psychiatry in Japan, together with excessive dependence on American views.

The second half of the book, dealing with clinical matters in which prominence is given to psychosomatic disorders, should also be of particular interest to paediatricians. The papers vary in emphasis, some basing themselves on the results of systematic research, some on clinical observation, many combining these two aspects. Over one hundred pages are given to papers on childhood psychosynthesis, and these will probably be of more interest to the specialist in psychiatry. However, it is very helpful to have published together the three classic papers which first brought these conditions to general notice, by S. de Sanctis, T. Heller, and L. Kanner. L. Bender then contributes a good review of literature on childhood psychosis from these early papers up to 1966. This forms an excellent outline of present knowledge of the subject if one allows for a rigid tendency to emphasize genetic factors. W. Goldfarb balances this by a paper on the therapeutic management of these children which emphasizes the psychogenic aspects and the possibilities of limited improvement.

Dr. Howells has performed a valuable service by making available the excellent summaries of modern knowledge on psychiatric themes which these volumes largely contain. It is to be hoped that they will continue to appear, and this particular volume can be highly recommended to a wide audience.


The emergence of nephrology as a subspecialty of paediatrics has not been reflected in an adequate text on the subject, and one concern in this review is to decide whether this gap has been filled. The author intends to provide ‘a concise practical guide for paediatricians, urologists, general practitioners and residents in training who may be called upon to care for children with renal diseases’. The result is essentially a presentation of his clinical practice, and personal opinion is frequently unsupported by review of the available data. The style is easy to read, and the conclusions generally sound; the deficiencies, however, become apparent when the book is used as a reference to answer specific questions. Thus, for example, there is no discussion of the management of renal vein thrombosis and surprisingly little description of the physiology of disturbances of fluid and electrolyte equilibriums.

The conscious decision ‘to omit or condense much controversial material’ was inevitably determined by the size of the book, which is unfortunately not matched by the price; at eleventhence for each double page of text some would-be purchasers may be tempted by the cheaper, if illegal, expedient of Xeroxing a library copy.

This book succeeds in its stated purpose and will be found valuable by paediatricians with clinical responsibility for children with renal disease. It is not, however, the definitive, ‘state of the art’ text, which is probably not within the scope of a single author.


This number of the B.M.B. provides a timely and critical review of the recent accomplishments in Human Genetics. Much of the data are presented in summary tables, and the well-chosen topics are linked together in a stimulating introduction by Professor Penrose.

Professor Polani’s paper on Autosomal Imbalance excluding Down’s syndrome gives a good idea of the range of cytogenetic abnormalities which have been discovered during the past decade. Concise clinical summaries of the common conditions are included, and the excellent bibliography contains well over 200 references. The other main group of structural aberrations, reciprocal translocations, is dealt with admirably by Professor Ford and Dr. Clegg. They first deal with the theoretical considerations of chromosome segregation during meiosis in the heterozygote, and then analyse the data collected from the 129 translocations known.

Structural abnormalities of sex chromosomes are dealt with authoritatively by Dr. Patricia Jacobs. The article includes clinical discussion of patients with