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 psychosis, 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.

Book Reviews


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 equilibrium.

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 elevenpence 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
deletions and isochromosomes of the X and of males with structurally abnormal Y chromosomes. The isochromosome group, with consequential absence of short arms, are females without testes, indicating the location of male-determining factors on the short arm of the Y.

Chromosome mosaicism forms the subject of another chapter by Ford. He first sets out the mathematical probabilities in diagnosing mosaicism and then analyses the varieties of sex chromosome and autosomal mosaics.

Finally he clearly differentiates between mosaics and chimeras (individuals composed of genetically different cell lines) and offers a classification of the latter. Professor Court Brown provides an excellent summary of the data so far accumulated on human population cytogenetics; undoubtedly the discovery of the XYY-syndrome has crested the most interest medically.

In his paper on Enzyme and Protein Polymorphism, Professor Harris refers to the occurrence and frequency of the classical examples and discusses the extent of the polymorphism for the different factors. Variations in the structure of haemoglobin are dealt with in more detail by Professor Lehmann and Dr. Carroll. Amino acid substitution at key sites results in unstable haemoglobins which produce a characteristic congenital haemolytic anaemia. Inheritable defects of synthesis of the globin chain as opposed to structural alterations are the characteristics of the thalassaemias. Professor Wetherall clearly sets out a classification of the basic types including the clinical manifestations in individuals homozygous and heterozygous for the mutation.

Dr. Scrivener reviews inborn errors of amino acid metabolism, 90% of which have been discovered since 1950 when chromatographic techniques were adapted to clinical investigation. The study of at least some hereditary metabolic diseases, such as homocystinuria, has been enhanced in recent years by in vitro studies on cultured tissue explants. Some conditions, such as phenylketonuria cannot be studied in this way, because the enzyme concerned is not expressed in the tissues suitable for culture.

The Genetics of Common Disorders are discussed in a characteristically lucid way by Carter, while Edwards wrestles (successfully) with the complex problem of distinguishing between the effects of heredity and environment in his paper on Familial Predisposition in Man.

Finally, there are two papers concerned with the linkage of specific genes to particular chromosomes.

This book is excellent value for money. Workers in all aspects of genetics who wish to keep abreast of modern developments in fields allied to their own will profit enormously from the information contained within its 118 pages. Though a number of articles are rather specialized for the general reader, the contents of certain chapters, particularly those devoted to chromosomes and metabolic and haematological disturbances, should be of clinical interest.


The authors of this book, themselves experienced paediatric cardiologists, have set out to write a basic introduction to the subject for non-specialists working in the field. They aim to set out the fundamentals of the discipline without the reader becoming bogged down in innumerable combinations of congenital abnormalities, which can be referred to in one of several excellent available textbooks.

The handbook is divided into two sections, the first dealing with embryology, anatomy, radiology, and other general considerations, and the second with specific disease entities. The book is easy to read, and in general its concept and execution are admirable, with appropriate and clear illustrations. Obviously, in order to preserve clarity and brevity, sacrifices of content have had to be made and the authors freely admit their bias; likewise criticisms of content and emphasis must represent a personal view. In the second section the brief summary of haemodynamics before the clinical presentation seems appropriate and could usefully have been used consistently throughout this section. The chapter on vectorcardiography is commendably related to age, but perhaps the diagnostic value of the frontal plane axis could have been mentioned in the preceding chapter on electrocardiography. The omission of the hypoplastic left heart syndrome as a separate entity for discussion, being one of the most common causes of heart failure and death in the neonatal period, is regretted in passing, but surely a chapter on bacterial endocarditis demands discussion of its prevention. Treatment can obviously be dealt with only briefly, and the authors make it clear that they are offering their personal opinion on such controversial issues as their recommendations for surgical closure of ventricular septal defects, thus stimulating further reading. Specific drug therapy is mentioned in appropriate places, but a table of drugs pertaining to cardiac treatment and their dosage would have been a useful reference guide.

A short handbook of paediatric cardiology has long been overdue and this book must appeal to all who are interested in learning the essentials of the specialty.