

in the size of the problem has been even greater in many British centres.

Although principally concerned with orthopaedic management, Menelaus shares the widespread view that this problem must be treated by a group of specialists at a specialist clinic and that the parents must be able to look to a co-ordinator of the work of these specialists, so that the children's overall care and education is not interrupted more often than essential. About 7 admissions and 34 outpatient attendances were made by each of this group of children in their first 5 to 8 years, and smooth team-work is required. Menelaus feels that the speciality of the co-ordinator is less important than his especial interest in the problem. Advice on setting up such a clinic is given, together with advice to be given to the parents of these children in a printed booklet.

The orthopaedic procedures detailed are those of standard British practice. The chief merit of the monograph is that they are now brought together for the benefit of easy reference, and that when a procedure has a low rate of success this is stated quite clearly. The need for improved bracing for these children is not emphasized and little attention is given to the research aspects of this subject.

The printing and paper are of high quality and the book is well illustrated with photographs and radiographs. There is a good index and bibliography.

**Foetal and Neonatal Pathology.** 3rd edition. By J. EDGAR MORISON. (Pp. xiv + 641; illustrated and tables. £11.) London: Butterworths. 1970.

The third edition of Dr. Morison's well-known book, though increased in length, retains the general form of its predecessors, with the chapters grouped to divide the book into three parts dealing respectively with disturbances during intrauterine life, those due to interference with adaptation to extrauterine life, and those due to pre- or postnatal infection.

In his preface the author states that he would like the book to be judged primarily as a guide to integrated thinking about the problems of perinatal disease. To this end there is considerable emphasis on the relation between perinatal physiology and all aspects of fetal and neonatal pathology.

The book does however suffer from the drawbacks that are to be expected in a work of this type, which has been revised several times over two decades. The steady increase in knowledge of perinatal physiology and pathology makes it impossible for any one author to give a wholly adequate view of all aspects of these subjects. In addition, the lack of drastic rewriting of the individual chapters, despite inclusion of much new material, renders it difficult for the reader to obtain a balanced view of current thought on any one topic.

The section on development of lung structure and function, for example, should have been far more radically revised and the old illustrations replaced by newer and more informative ones from the modern sources quoted.

Dr. Morison's attempts to avoid the traditional organ system approach to pathology prevent easy location of a particular subject without constant reference to the index. For example, intracranial haemorrhage is to be found in the same chapter as congenital heart disease, as a 'lesion influencing adaptation to extra-uterine respiration'.

Despite these drawbacks this remains the most generally useful textbook on perinatal pathology and is an essential reference book for pathologists, paediatricians, and obstetricians. Much of its unique value lies in the large and well-chosen selection of references to work published up to mid 1970, which allow ready access to the literature on each topic.

**Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.** Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Causes of Sudden Death in Infants. Edited by A. B. BERGMAN, J. B. BECKWITH, and C. G. RAY. (Pp. xix + 248; illustrated + tables. \$10.00.) Seattle and London: University of Washington Press. 1970.

This book records the proceedings of a conference on sudden death in infancy that was held in Seattle in 1969. It is based largely on the very active unit working in Seattle and follows a previous conference and report in 1963, and it is necessary to read the present report in conjunction with the earlier one (Wedgwood, R. J. and Benditt, E. P. (*Ed.*), 'Sudden Death in Infants', Public Health Service Publications No. 1412, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Bethesda, Md. 1964). The international contributions include the Ulster survey of 1965-67 and one from Czechoslovakia.

Workers in England will be interested to know that the problem of cot deaths, which is now termed 'Sudden Infant Death Syndrome', only became a respectable subject for scientific study in 1963.

The book contains several studies of epidemiology. These confirm factors already known such as the relation of the syndrome to prematurity, low income groups, virus infections, and, from the Czechoslovakian study, an interesting parallelism in incidence of cot deaths to that of general infant mortality and, in Canada, to periods of windy bad weather.

From the point of view of pathology there is little new apart from the non-confirmation of recent hypotheses such as parathyroid abnormalities, milk allergy, and abnormalities of the AV node system. A section on possible derangements of cardiopulmonary physiological reflexes such as the 'diving reflex' indicates the field along which further work appears to be the most actively required at the present time.

The major problem is the setting up of a valid, checkable hypothesis that will explain how infection, viral and enteral, can cause rapid death. The consensus is tending to expect death to be a multifactorial type.

The book is essential reading for anyone concerned with infant deaths. The Washington School of Medicine is to be congratulated on its work in this field.