Some consequences of artificial feeding in neonates with reference to excess weight gain and osmolar loading. L. S. Taitz (introduced by V. Dubowitz) (Department of Child Health, University of Sheffield). Recent studies in Sheffield have indicated that infants showing a rapid rate of weight gain in early infancy have a greater tendency to later obesity than those who gain weight more slowly.

These findings have prompted further studies of feeding practices. It has been found that rapid weight gain is associated with artificial feeding and the early introduction of solids. On the basis of Eid’s criteria 59% of infants show excessive weight gain at 6 weeks. These findings are associated with an estimated dietary intake that exceeds the usually recommended 100 calories/kg per day.

Analysis of milk samples taken from bottles brought to the follow-up clinic show that the sodium concentration often exceeds that of cow’s milk, indicating that insufficient care is taken in the preparation of feeds.

This increased osmolar intake may be significant in relation to the high incidence of hypertonic dehydration.

Clinical value of plasma creatine kinase and uric acid levels during first week of life. B. A. Wharton, Urmilla Bassi, G. Gough, and Angela Dilhams (Queen Elizabeth Hospital, London E.2). Published in full (Archives of Disease in Childhood, 46, 356).

Demonstrations

Anonymous mycobacteria in childhood. T. Knowles, W. A. Hyde, and H. B. Marsden (Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital).

Tumours in children. J. K. Steward (Manchester Children’s Tumour Registry).

Some problems posed by the sweat test. V. Schwarz (Department of Child Health, University of Manchester).

Studies on the mechanism of sweat secretion. C. Gordon and V. Schwarz (Department of Child Health, University of Manchester).

Vulnerability of the developing brain. (Department of Child Health, University of Manchester): (a) Effects of experimental growth retardation—Jean Sands and J. Dobbing; (b) Brain enzymes following experimental undernutrition—B. Adlard; (c) Behavioural consequences: of experimental undernutrition—J. Smart and A. Lynch; (d) Experimental X-irradiation in infancy: effects on brain enzymes and behaviour—B. Adlard and A. Lynch; (e) Human brain growth—Jean Sands and J. Dobbing.

Detection of heterozygotes for homocystinuria by oral loading with L-methionine. I. B. Sardharwalla, B. Fowler, and A. J. Robins (introduced by I. B. Houston) (Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital and Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of Manchester). To be published elsewhere.