Book reviews


The first edition of this book was published 15 years ago and the authors' experience spans the development of paediatric cardiology as a specialty in its own right. Apparent in every page of the 3rd edition is the enjoyment and enthusiasm still felt for this rapidly developing, fascinating subject.

The book is written from a clinical viewpoint. Emphasis is on clinical assessment including ECG, chest x-ray, and VCG, and management based on experience and current practice at the Boston Children's Hospital. Detailed angiographic descriptions and illustrations are not included. As stated in the preface, there are advantages in a book that gives one way of managing congenital heart disease over one that is a multi-author reference book. The disadvantage is that limitations in the approach may be perpetuated.

In the last few years the Van Praaghgs have worked in Boston. Their anatomical and developmental concepts, especially in relation to common ventricle, transposition of the great vessels, cor tristium, and tetralogy of Fallot have profoundly influenced thinking about these conditions. Nadas and Fyler, as they state, have interpreted the Van Praaghgs' concepts as they see them.

The section of 'General principles' of congenital heart disease neatly summarizes the notion of sequential chamber localization, the importance of d- and l-bulboventricular looping, and the differential conal growth hypothesis, while in Chapter 17, 'The transpositions', the possible variants are given in as painless a way as possible—they work out to be 32! The section on double outlet right ventricle, however, is not so clear, and the physiological and clinical sequelae dependent principally on presence or absence of pulmonary stenosis are difficult to extract from the text. The authors also talk about the Taussig-Bing syndrome (? different from anomaly) without defining what they mean.

Omissions in such a personal book are inevitable, but for the nonspecialist these are few. None the less, His bundle electrocardiography, at least in relation to heart block, deserves a mention. Therapeutic suggestions for congenital block ('chlorothiazide to achieve a low total body potassium') are somewhat speculative, but the authors' admonition that all patients with surgically created heart block require pacing is salutary.

Some of the physiological explanations are superficial, but this was not the prime purpose of the book and in a clinical context the book stands as a masterpiece of description. Rhetoric at times intrudes. One could, albeit admiringly, take exception to a description of double outlet right ventricle as 'this embryologically fascinating, clinically frustrating and surgically devastating malformation', but one just has to read on when squatting in tetralogy of Fallot is described as 'a socially unacceptable position'.


The intention of the author is to discuss the biological principles of orthopaedic surgery, the dynamics of trauma, and the rationale for surgical intervention. This he has done in a large 2-volume work with a bibliography of nearly 6,000 references, up to 1971. He has succeeded in the greater part of his intention.

With all of such an extensive work written by one author there is a pleasing uniformity of presentation and little duplication. However, the style of writing does not make for easy reading, and this work is essentially one for reference. Certainly no orthopaedic surgeon or paediatrician could read this work without learning much.

It shows the usual difference in emphasis between orthopaedic practice on the two sides of the Atlantic, with a much greater emphasis being placed on the operative aspects of the discipline. This leads, as in the section on popliteal cysts, to a failure to consider the natural history of the condition, and in the section on cerebral palsy comparatively little is written on non-operative methods of management favoured in many centres in this country. It also leads to beautifully illustrated detailed sections on operative surgery for many conditions which have added appreciably to the price of the volume, but which many private purchasers of this type of book might prefer to find grouped in a separate volume.

There is a good section on fractures, but the author has decided that a separate volume is required for the presentation of orthotics, prosthetics, and hand surgery.

The general presentation is of a high order and the total effect left on the reviewer is one of great admiration for the industry of the author and publishers and for a notable addition to orthopaedic literature. It is the best book for reference known to the reviewer, but it is to be hoped that later editions will reconsider the objectives of the work. At the moment it is too orientated to surgery for paediatricians, and incomplete for surgeons.


This book is based on the author's personal experience...
in the application of neuroradiology to the diagnosis and management of diseases of the brain of approximately 4500 paediatric patients at the Children's Memorial and Cook County Hospitals, Chicago. Neuroradiology of the spine is not included as the author modestly disclaims significant experience in this field. Details of neuroradiological techniques are also excluded.

The author assumes that the reader already has a good general knowledge of adult neuroradiology. The importance of correlation of angiographic and encephalographic findings in the diagnosis of paediatric cranioencephalistic disease is emphasized. The object of this approach is to obtain a dynamic 3-dimensional concept of normal and pathological conditions so that one may arrive at a specific anatomical diagnosis, determine whether a lesion is progressive and/or operable, and hence plan the appropriate surgical or conservative treatment.

Chapters are devoted to normal neuroradiological anatomy, trauma, hydrocephalus, tumours, vascular diseases, infectious diseases of the brain and its coverings, and lastly, the normal anatomy of the skull. That one-third of the text is devoted to hydrocephalus reflects the importance of this disorder in paediatric neuroradiology and neurosurgery. One would have welcomed a section devoted to plain film changes in the skull. Each chapter is profusely illustrated by reproductions of radiographs and clearly labelled, coloured diagrams, the descriptions of which appear in the text. There are up-to-date references at the end of each chapter and the index at the end of the book is accurate and easy to use.

This book reflects the extensive knowledge and experience of the author, a neurosurgeon, in the field of paediatric neuroradiology in general and cerebral angiography in particular. There can be few neuroradiologists who would not profit greatly from possessing this book. Paediatricians without a sound knowledge of neuroradiological anatomy and pathology may find it of value for reference purposes and to keep their radiological colleagues up to scratch. The quality of the text and of the illustrations makes the price of this book not unreasonable.


This book is of the "recent advances" type, consisting of a collection of essays by different authors under joint editorship. The contributions, with detailed operative procedures, will mainly interest the urological and paediatric surgeon with an occasional practice in paediatric urology. Some chapters will be of interest to the paediatrician. Among the latter, will be P. P. Rickham's account of the malignant tumours: he takes a wider brief than the title suggests to include neuroblastoma and sacrococcygeal teratomas, calling on 261 references from his prodigious collection.

J. E. S. Scott gives a rather lengthy but enthusiastic review of vesico-ureteric reflux. R. J. Scholtmeijer briefly reviews two current theories of urinary voiding and control, giving an account of the more obvious organic causes of enuresis and urinary tract infection. He also treads the more controversial ground of distal urethral obstruction in girls. Of importance are his comments on the relation of enuresis to vesico-ureteric reflux. B. O'Donnell and P. F. Deasey give an account of the methods available to localize the origins of urinary tract infections; they include details of methods of anatomical localization.

In the day-to-day management of paediatric urological cases, clinicians will welcome T. McEndrick's precise and basic exposition of neonatal and infantile fluid balance, renal function, and management of the acutely azotaemic child.

For the surgeon, the concise informative chapters on the management of ectopic ureters and ectopic ureteroceles (J. H. Johnston), exstrophy of the bladder (D. I. Williams), posterior-urethral valves (J. H. Johnston and A. E. Kullatlake), though adding little new, are of value. The latter includes details of Johnston's method of fulguration of valves through an auriscope speculum.

W. H. Henderen gives a good account of his operative treatment for the severely decompenated ureter, but the chapter also contains a surfeit of related information.

R. B. Zachary and J. Lister tackle the controversial problem of the management of neurogenic bladder. The contribution, from a centre treating a large number of spina bifida cases, is based on clinical observations on 117 cases and simple intravesical pressure studies. The approach to the problem, as one of propulsion against out-flow resistance, is a good one. Their indications for "conservative" management, i.e. treatment short of urinary diversion, are particularly valuable. One might question the anatomical basis for their operation of external sphincterotomy.

B. L. Kathel might have simplified the subject more for those of us who are less mathematically minded. He does not put a good case for the general acceptance of the technique of quantitation of the isotope renogram by analogue computer simulation.

The chapter by N. J. Bakker and C. Cornill, discussing methods of urinary diversion, is largely concerned with a Mathison type of ureterosigmoidostomy, which must have very few indications in children. A good technique for ileal loop diversion and management is described.


The reviewer would have liked to read more on the management of the uremic child.


The publication of the papers of the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Inborn Errors of Metabolism has become an awaited annual event, and the recently published account of the Proceedings of the Ninth