
No short review could possibly do justice to this magnificent book. The previous editions must be familiar to all radiologists and most paediatricians. The 1600-odd pages cover the radiology of all parts of the body, including specialized techniques. Every page has several illustrations. Not only are the x-rays beautifully produced, but the clarity of the exposition is greatly added to by numerous nonradiographic illustrations, such as line-drawings. As a sample, the reader can examine the 30 pages on the normal skull. After studying the line-drawings, photographs of skulls, and radiographs side-by-side, no paediatrician could fail to get more out of seeing the skull x-rays of his patients. The book is full of information about paediatric disorders in general as well as the radiological findings. The love and enthusiasm which have gone into the book's preparation come out in Dr. Caffey's preface 'There is much that is new and interesting and much that is old and interesting in this sixth edition."

The new preface sounds a warning which should be of even more direct concern to paediatricians than to radiologists. It largely discusses the long-term hazards of ionizing radiation, and the fact that children are often x-rayed on slender clinical indications. Dr. Caffey's suggestion that 20 to 30% of x-ray exposures in children could be eliminated without loss of useful diagnostic information does not sound overstated. Perhaps the thought for the week for paediatricians should be that 'excretory urograms in girls probably carry more potential hazard than any other diagnostic roentgen procedure now commonly applied to children'.

This book is not just one for every radiological and paediatric department library—it is also a mine of information and enjoyment for the paediatrician who can afford to possess it.


This book may prove to have been particularly well timed, based as it is on the last decade or so of intensive research on fetal growth. Until quite recently that research has had to depend essentially on observations made on babies after they were born. The relative effects on the growth of the fetus by (a) its genetic constitution and (b) the intrauterine environment in which it has been nurtured, have been inferred simply from observing it at the end of its intrauterine stay, whether that be long or short. This is akin to looking at a traveller newly arrived after a long journey, and trying to guess how long he has been travelling, what his diet has been, and what the climate has been like in the various parts where he has sojourned.

Certainly some ingenious approaches have been used to overcome in part the frustratingly severe limitations imposed by this situation, and the Ounsted's own meticulous study of the inherited maternal factors which constrain fetal growth provide a notable example of these. Nevertheless it seems likely that most of the useful information about fetal growth that is discoverable from observations of the baby after birth may already have been achieved. Hopefully such new approaches as that provided by ultrasonics are now about to open a new chapter, so that we shall not always have to wait for the fetus to emerge before being able to weigh or measure him.

Before these new techniques become commonplace, as no doubt they will, it is therefore timely to have this excellent account of the present state of knowledge presented in an attractive way.

In Chapter 6, entitled 'Hypotheses', the two authors develop some of their own interesting speculative ideas concerning the effect of the Y chromosome on fetal growth; and their work in this field, though not always easy to grasp at first reading (e.g. 'the Y chromosome causes the genomic messages to occur at a slower ontogenetic pace in males') is well worth making the effort to understand.

This book is a notable addition to the admirable series of Clinics in Developmental Medicine, for which we have to thank Spastics International Medical Publications.


This book is a comprehensive survey of our present-day knowledge of intrauterine infections. It begins with an article by Marshall stressing the damage that intrauterine rubella infection may produce beyond the organogenesis period. Reference is made to prognosis. Hanshaw and his colleagues deal with the other main virus infection of the fetus, cytomegalovirus. The authors attempt to estimate the prevalence of cytomegalovirus in pregnancy and its likely effect on the infant. The excretion of cytomegalovirus and the significance of antibody both in mother and baby is fully