

disparity in the relative amount of space given to problems in comparison with their actual occurrence; for example, only 43 pages are devoted to respiratory disorders, whereas there are 107 pages on neurology.

The chapters on small-for-dates infants, metabolism and its disorders, pharmacology, infections, renal disorders, and practical procedures are good, and there is a comprehensive list of normal values for the constituents of blood, urine, CSF, and faeces which might prove invaluable as these data are often not readily accessible. A short section on the perinatal necropsy could also be useful. The inclusion of a chapter on care in tropical countries is an excellent idea, though one questions whether this large and expensive book is the right place for it. Haematological disorders are well covered, especially disseminated intravascular coagulation, but the author, having sounded a warning note about the possible long-term ill-effects of phototherapy, immediately proceeds to advocate its use in *all* infants whose bilirubin rises above 10 mg/100 ml!

The chapter on respiratory disorders is disappointing and there is a somewhat unfortunate separation between the section dealing with asphyxia and that concerned with immediate respiratory problems, such as hyaline membrane disease. The chapter on gastrointestinal diseases is insufficient; by contrast, the one on neurology seems too long. Photographs and *x*-rays are all together in one section. These are informative as far as they go but more *x*-rays might with advantage have been included. The index is adequate, but more cross-referencing in the text would have been desirable.

This book deserves a place on the shelves of neonatal departments, but the would-be individual purchaser is advised to look at other books on neonatology before buying this one.

The Child at School. A Paediatrician's Manual for Teachers. R. S. ILLINGWORTH. (Pp.xii+301. £5.00.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1974.

Your reviewer is puzzled by this new publication, which seems to be no more than another, expensive version of the author's earlier (80p) book *The Normal School Child—His Problems, Physical and Emotional* (1964). The new book is subtitled 'A Paediatrician's Manual for Teachers', but the content and style is little different. The first three chapters are concerned with pre- and postnatal factors, mainly social and psychological, that affect behaviour; discipline and punishments; and behaviour disorders. It is disconcerting that these precede chapters on physical growth, puberty, and normal development of young children; and that prominence is given in the chapter on behaviour disorders to juvenile delinquency, drugs, and smoking without reference to physical and psychological changes characteristic of puberty and adolescence. There follow chapters summarizing the role of developmental testing in infancy, variations in mental ability, and learning disorders (dyslexia); the clumsy child, overactivity, and brain damage are treated separately. Educational subnormality is confused with

mental subnormality and the significance and implications of medical factors in educational retardation are not made clear for the practising teacher. Blindness, deafness, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and spina bifida are discussed in a long chapter on handicapped children; speech problems are covered separately. The book ends with chapters on common symptoms and diseases, infectious diseases, accidents, and psychoses.

There are two principal reasons why this book is unlikely to become a 'must' for teachers, whether they are qualified or in training. The first is its price. The second is that although it has a liberal sprinkling of references and other reading material, it is not sufficiently orientated to the child in school nor practical enough as a teacher's manual. For instance, in the management of the mentally handicapped child the paediatrician's responsibility is seen as trying '... to help the parents in their management of the child ...'; and in the prevention of accidents, 'Parents (and teachers) must always stop dangerous practices ...'; high-tone deafness is not explained and its only stated consequence for the child in school is lateness in talking and an inability to appreciate music; and whereas the relevance of 5 hydroxytryptamine, noradrenaline, and dopamine to mood regulation is mentioned, the use and care of hearing aids is not.

Recent Advances in Paediatric Surgery. No. 3. Edited by ANDREW W. WILKINSON. (Pp. ix + 220; illustrated and tables. £7.00.) Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone. 1975.

The third number in this series contains 16 excellent articles by 19 authors reviewing the growing fringe of surgical paediatrics. Many concern complications that may be encountered in surgical patients. Only 6 contributions are from surgeons, namely those on cardiac surgery, ureterovesical operations, abnormalities of the bile ducts, meconium ileus, stapled sutures, and laryngeal disorders. Paradoxically, this selection enhances the value of the volume, for like other specialists, surgeons are anxious to learn of advances in diverse fields that relate to their own work. Thus the subjects chosen include genetics, haematology, pulmonary function, anaesthesia, and respiratory intensive therapy, renal failure, chemotherapy for solid tumours, and immunology.

All the authors are experts in their own fields. The content of individual contributions has been adjusted largely to the needs of the surgical reader, but on occasion this task has been difficult. Language can present a problem, it is not easy for the uninitiated to comprehend a phrase such as 'a dimer with an extra polypeptide chain—secretory piece'. Elsewhere perfect understanding may depend on consulting a reference given in the text, such as that defining truncus arteriosus types I, II, and III. Some of the undefined abbreviations in initial letters will cause fewer problems, as most readers will know that PVC is polyvinylchloride and that IPPV is intermittent positive pressure ventilation. To comprehend the detailed advice on where, when, and how stapled sutures can be used in paediatric