

think we should give up research on rare disorders but we could give more attention to common problems and be more aware of psychosocial contributions to their origins. This book is a valuable postgraduate revision course for all who look after children.

Pathology of Infancy and Childhood. By John M. Kissane. (Pp. xv+1207; illustrated+23 tables. £28.25.) St. Louis: Mosby; London: Kimpton. 1975.

There are few textbooks of paediatric pathology, and this is not only the newest, but the best. It is a weighty volume (3200 g to be precise) and it is clearly a work of reference for the laboratory bench and medical library. It is concerned primarily with the histopathological aspects of disease in children, but the important contributions of microbiology, biochemistry, haematology, and immunology are not ignored, and adequate clinical background is included. The 759 illustrations, all in black and white, are well chosen and of high quality. They consist mainly of macroscopical and histological preparations, but include a few electron micrographs and diagrams. As is clearly stated in the preface, the work is not intended to deal with antenatal pathology or the placenta. Diseases of the newborn, however, are dealt with in detail and there is a particularly good section on the respiratory distress syndrome, for example. Rather surprisingly, the subject of sudden unexpected death is not included in spite of the vast amount of topical interest. There are also one or two smaller omissions. Beckwith's syndrome, for example, receives only scant treatment in the section dealing with cytomegaly of the adrenal, and one might have expected a word on the relevance of the endodermal sinus to the origin of orchidoblastoma. Similarly, chronic granulomatous disease, a condition with many fascinating pathological aspects, gets only scant mention in the sections on skin and lung. The index is not so helpful as might be; for example, Hirschsprung's disease and tuberous sclerosis are not included as such. These are relatively minor criticisms of the most comprehensive and reliable text of its kind. The price will preclude a general rush to purchase, but it is a must for all pathologists dealing with paediatric problems, and will also be of value to paediatric surgeons and physicians.

Gesell and Amatruda's Developmental Diagnosis.

3rd edition. Edited by HILDA KNOBLOCH and BENJAMIN PASAMANICK. (Pp. 564; 158 figures. U.S. \$14.95). Hagerstown, Maryland, U.S.A.: Harper and Row. 1974.

It must be unusual for a new edition to appear 28 years after the previous one. Hilda Knobloch, who has written such sound common sense in the past about developmental assessment, has prepared this third edition along with Benjamin Pasamanick, whose writings on the 'continuum of reproductive casualty' are well known. This edition, apart from sections on the development and assessment of behaviour and the stages of development, contain chapters on mental subnorma-

lity, neuromotor dysfunction, minimal brain dysfunction, low birthweight, fits, communication disorders, visual defects, autism and other psychoses, screening, clinical aspects of adoption, and the professional training for developmental diagnosis.

The second edition (1947) has long been the bible of many concerned with developmental diagnosis, but I am afraid that the new edition will be less helpful, and I pity anyone who tries to learn the art from it. It is verbose, repetitive, and often irrelevant. For instance, the sections on diagnosis and treatment of infantile spasms and of febrile convulsions, apart from being inadequate, are irrelevant to developmental diagnosis.

Surprising statements include a somewhat immodest one in the preface that only one or two clinicians, apart from the authors, were trained by Gesell; that 'hypotonic quadriplegia is probably the most common cause of infantile hypotonia and constitutes perhaps one-third of the cases of cerebral palsy in this age group' (infancy); and that 'phenobarbital is the drug of choice in treating almost all seizures'. At the end of the book there are 120 references, but they are of little value: they almost totally ignore papers on developmental diagnosis if they emanate from outside America, making no mention, for instance, of Albrecht Peiper, or of the French workers, such as André Thomas and Madame Saint Anne-Dargassies, or of British workers, such as Mary Sheridan, Tom Ingram, Ronnie Mac Keith and many others; there is no mention of the work of Victor and Lill Dubowitz and Allie Moosa on the assessment of maturity. It even ignores much highly relevant American work. Richmond Paine is not mentioned—nor is *Biographies of Child Development* by Gesell, Amatruda, Castner, and Thompson—a book which I have long thought was one of Gesell's two or three best.

I find it difficult to recommend this book.

Respiratory Illness in Children. By H. E. Williams and P. D. Phelan. (Pp. xi+448; illustrated+tables. £11.50) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1975.

This book covers the subject of respiratory disease in children in 440 pages and retails at £11.50. It may be said right away that it is an excellent book and presents all aspects of the subject in a clear and readable form. It does not cover neonatal disease which, as the authors say, is dealt with adequately in other monographs.

There are chapters on all main respiratory diseases, including an excellent one on tuberculosis by the only outside author, Dr. F. J. W. Miller. In addition the authors have taken particular care to cover aspects of the subject which are often difficult and presented badly elsewhere. For example, there are valuable chapters on stridor, wheezing and their clinical significance, also on chronic and recurrent cough. In each case the mechanisms, differential diagnosis, and management are fully discussed.

Other topics which are well covered are the rarer lung disorders of childhood including subacute and chronic interstitial pneumonias, pulmonary alveolar proteinosis,