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.


There are few textbooks of paediatric pathology, and this is not only the newest, but the best. It is a weighing 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 macroscopic 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 ochioblastoma. 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.


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 subnoma-

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 'hypo-
tonic 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 'phenobarbitol 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.


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,
idiopathic pulmonary haemosiderosis, sarcoidosis, extrinsic allergic alveolitis, pulmonary alveolar micro-lithiasis, α₁-antitrypsin deficiency, obliterative bronchiolitis, McLeod's syndrome, and hydatid cyst infection. A variety of congenital maldevelopments of the bronchi, lungs, and diaphragm are admirably discussed in a further chapter. The reproductions of x-rays are unusually good and there are many good outline drawings and illustrations. Selected references are listed at the end of each chapter.

The book has some limitations. The final chapter on respiratory function tests describes them in summary form only. One would have to go elsewhere for practical details. There are no normal values and under individual diseases the abnormalities to be expected in ventilatory tests or blood gas levels are dealt with rather sketchily and in general terms without reference to information in the literature. There is usually no detailed information about the drugs used in treatment and frequently one would have to look elsewhere for dosage, side effects, etc. Neoplastic diseases are not discussed. A foreign body is not mentioned among the causes of bronchietasis, yet this must be one of the commoner causes, at least in this country. Sweat tests are mentioned in the diagnosis of cystic fibrosis but no details of normal and abnormal values or the difficulties of interpretation are given. Trypsin in the stool is not discussed. These are minor points of criticism, however, and the book can be highly recommended to all who treat children with chest disease.


This book is the first text on paediatric gastroenterology to be produced this side of the Atlantic. It is well produced with clear figures and illustrations, and covers very comprehensively a wide range of subjects within the field of paediatric gastroenterology including basic physiology and biochemistry. It is a pity that some major topics such as gastroenteritis and gastroenterological surgical disorders are not dealt with as fully as most other topics, but this would make this large book even larger.

The size of this text indicates the great expansion in knowledge that has occurred in this subspeciality within a comparatively short period of time. Incidentally, it also demonstrates the major role that Professor Anderson and her trainees in Melbourne and Birmingham have played in the development of the subject. Contributions to this text come not only from Professor Anderson and her co-editor Dr. Valerie Burke, but also from a number of other distinguished workers from Britain, Australia, India, and Switzerland. The sections on the oesophagus and stomach by Professor Carré and Dr. Dodge, respectively, are particularly valuable, especially as they provide a broad bibliography of these subjects not otherwise readily available. Indeed one of the strengths of this book is the presence of an extensive bibliography attached to each chapter.

This book is a must for every paediatrician interested in this field but its unavoidably high price is likely to preclude it finding a place on the shelf of most doctors. However, it should readily find a place on the shelf of every hospital library.


Many readers will feel that there has already been a surfeit of books on calcium metabolism in recent years. These books have mostly taken the form of proceedings from an almost matching number of international symposia on the field. They have therefore tended to treat selected, and often repetitive, topics in depth. By contrast, Dr. Paterson has written a monograph which attempts to cover the field in a reasonably simple but comprehensive manner. His book is a justifiable addition to the list.

He begins in what is now the standard manner by covering basic biochemistry of calcium and phosphorus, and surveying recent research into parathyroid hormone, vitamin D, and calcitonin. He then provides a general section of symptomatology and techniques of investigation in metabolic bone disease. The bulk of the book then deals individually with all the main and most of the subsidiary clinical syndromes.

The style is straightforwardly descriptive, but conflicting data are reasonably discussed and the author expresses sound opinions. Though he writes primarily from the standpoint of chemical pathology, little is neglected and bone histology, radiology, and clinical features are also studied carefully. Therapy is considered in somewhat lesser detail, particularly in some of its more difficult aspects; for example, treatment with vitamin D and dihydrotestosterone in high dosage are virtually equated. No doubt limitations of size also restrict adequate coverage of the broad field of renal tubular disorders and their pathology.

The book is well up-to-date and its exhaustive references will be particularly helpful to the clinical researcher. It is certainly more than a précis of other people's work, and should prove particularly helpful to hospital doctors and medical students who wish to broaden their knowledge of these forms of disease.