

There is little reference to the immunological work in paediatric malignancy, and to the use of nuclear medicine and radiological techniques in diagnosis.

The overall impression of the book is one of optimism, and in this respect it is worthwhile reading for those who are not conversant with the present achievements and cure rates in this important field.

Tumours of Infancy and Childhood. Edited by PETER G. JONES and PETER E. CAMPBELL. (Pp. 975; illustrated + tables. £26.00.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1976.

This book has been written by the staff of the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. It is based on their experience of 1689 children with leukaemia or malignant tumours, who have been treated between 1950 and 1972, a period during which the outlook for children with many forms of malignant disease has improved enormously.

Although this is a multi-author book, and a relatively long one, skilful editing has eliminated the tedious repetition of the same facts in different chapters, which has been such an irritating feature of other similar books in recent years. However, the authors show how vital it is for both clinicians and pathologists to co-operate fully in the treatment of children with such potentially fatal conditions, if the best results are to be achieved for the child and its family.

Many of the malignant conditions of childhood, which in the past were inevitably fatal, can now be effectively treated, particularly if the disease is diagnosed early and managed correctly from the start. It has thus become increasingly important for all doctors, both in general practice and in hospital, who are involved in the care of children, to be aware of the existence of these rare conditions and of the need to obtain the best treatment as quickly as possible. The book contains a comprehensive and up-to-date account of the natural history and management of cancer in children. It should certainly be available in any department concerned with the treatment of children with malignant disease.

From the point-of-view of both the family doctor and the paediatrician, perhaps one of the most helpful chapters is that on 'Parents and Patients', which stresses the need for informed frankness on the part of the doctor, and also the importance of helping the whole family to cope with a very stressful situation, whether the child is eventually cured or not ('when treatment has failed, the care of the child in the final stages of the illness is at least as crucial as in any other stage').

The Practice of Pediatric Neurology. Edited by K. F. SWAIMAN and F. S. WRIGHT. (Pp. xv + 1082, + 58 pp. index; 457 illustrations. 2 vols. £65.70.) St. Louis: Mosby; London: Kimpton. 1975.

This large, beautifully produced, and exceedingly expensive book is the latest of a number of new books which have appeared on this subject in the last few years. Previously Frank Ford's classic monograph, based largely on his personal experience at Johns Hopkins, was the main reference source, and though it remains a

superb account of many clinical disorders, it has drawbacks in practical use. It is disease- rather than problem-orientated, so it is not always helpful in discussing the diagnostic possibilities in particular clinical situations, and it has been overtaken by the rapid advances in understanding of neurometabolic disorders.

Swaiman and Wright's textbook, which has multiple authorship, overcomes the first of these problems by being written in 3 sections. The first 84 pages discuss history taking, examination, and diagnostic methods. The second section of nearly 200 pages discusses symptoms and signs of neurological disease and provides a problem-orientated approach to paediatric neurology. In this section, extensive tables provide useful check-lists. The remaining 800 pages describe neurological diseases systematically. This sensible approach generally works well, though the placement of chapters is not always logical—thus mental retardation and disorders of speech and language come in the problem section, whereas seizure disorders and learning disabilities come in the disease section. Furthermore, it sometimes leads to disorder being described twice—for example cerebral gigantism has two separate brief descriptions which are not cross-referenced, and incidentally neither of which would be likely to help the clinician make this diagnosis for the first time.

The neurometabolic and degenerative diseases are given an excellent and (for the present) up-to-date description, and in these as in all other chapters the reference lists are huge with a high proportion of recent papers.

The production and lay-out are beautiful. There are two volumes, both of which contain the complete index. The illustrations and tables are of very high quality. It is a pity that the price of this superb book will be prohibitive to most private purchasers in this country.

Paediatric Clinical Gastroenterology. 2nd Edition. Edited by C. C. ROY, A. SILVERMAN, and F. J. COZZETTO. (Pp. xii + 799; illustrated + tables. £17.90) St. Louis: Mosby; London: Kimpton. 1975.

The second edition of this textbook, published 4 years after the first, has been extensively revised in the light of recent knowledge and expanded accordingly. The three authors have taken care not to isolate gastroenterology from general paediatrics and have indeed maintained the theme of the first edition: to bridge the gap between general discussions of gastrointestinal problems in paediatric textbooks and the standard gastroenterology texts.

The book consists of 37 chapters and is organized into three sections. The first of these deals with common gastrointestinal symptoms and signs and is probably more useful for the doctor starting a career in paediatrics, though some of the points are worthy of repeated emphasis. The second section describes disease entities in a lucid and problem-orientated manner. Problems of the small and large bowel, liver and biliary system, and finally the pancreas, are dealt with comprehensively. Understanding of the normal function and

pathological processes is made easier by the critical inclusion of relevant biochemistry and physiology. Emphasis is placed throughout on diagnosis and practical management. The authors give readers the benefit of their own experience but this is not to the detriment of discussion. A very useful chapter on gastrointestinal emergencies of the neonate is included, though he is far from forgotten in other chapters. The final section deals with laboratory tests, procedures, and nutritional care and is written with an understanding of the practicalities and validity of the tests.

The standard of production is extremely high and many excellent radiographs, photographs, and tables are included. Useful and up-to-date references are given throughout the text. The authors have achieved their aim of producing a book which is both practical and of immediate usefulness. It is a textbook for all children's doctors who have an interest in gastroenterology.

Pathology of the Fetus and the Infant. 3rd edition. By EDITH L. POTTER and JOHN M. CRAIG. (Pp. 697; illustrated + tables. £39.00.) London: Lloyd-Luke. 1976.

Everyone working in the perinatal field knows 'Potter', even if only as 'the book with all the monsters'. When the first edition of *Pathology of the Fetus and the Infant* was published, perinatal pathology was still traditionally concerned with the descriptive anatomy of congenital malformations and the gross lesions of birth trauma, anoxia, and infection. The format of the book reflected this tradition in presenting the extensive material collected largely by Dr. Potter herself.

Over the past quarter of a century the emphasis in perinatal and infant pathology has totally changed from descriptive anatomy to developmental physiology and the biochemical and genetic basis of infant disease. I was particularly interested to see how the new edition of Potter would reflect these changes. In fact the basic format remains as before. None of the chapters has been replaced or completely rewritten, and all the monsters are still there. Much additional material has, however, been incorporated in nearly all chapters to reflect new knowledge and the overall size of the book considerably increased. The additions make this far more of a complete textbook than previously so that most pathological conditions found in infancy now receive some mention. At the same time there has been further expansion of the discussion of topics of particular interest to the senior author, such as pulmonary development and pathology, and the classification of cystic disease of the kidneys. These sections, among others, make interesting and provocative reading and raise the book well above the level of a standard text.

However, in many ways this book remains more applicable to perinatal and infant pathology of the past than that of 1976. In the world of Potter's pathology, congenital syphilis is still an important infection but the Lancefield Group B β -haemolytic streptococcus rates only a passing reference; infantile cortical hyperostosis

is illustrated profusely, but baby battering is ignored; and sudden infant death can be dismissed in a single paragraph.

Despite such drawbacks, 'Potter' will retain its position as a valuable reference book for pathologists, paediatricians, and obstetricians, though few in Britain can now afford to own it.

Immunodeficiency in Man and Animals. Birth Defects Original Article Series, Vol. XI, No. 1. Edited by D. BERGSMAN, R. A. GOOD, and J. FINSTAD. (Pp. xx + 599; illustrated + tables. £20.80.) Sunderland, Mass.: Sinauer Associates. 1975.

This publication is a report on the Second International Workshop on the Primary Immunodeficient Diseases. It is a large volume with some 100 papers. After a general introduction they are arranged in seven groups and the volume ends with a summing up by Robert A. Good, who also contributes to the introductory pages. On the whole the arrangement of articles is appropriate and moves from papers reporting fundamental work on cell and molecular biology to clinical aspects of diagnosis and therapy. Animal models are discussed towards the end of the book. The volume in general is well prepared and well illustrated. The bibliography with each paper is usually comprehensive and in some instances the discussions recorded at the end of the papers are interesting, though in others the apparently verbatim style is rather wordy.

Since this is a collection of papers it is at times hard to find a totally satisfactory continuing thread between the various articles in any one section and yet at other times there is some overlap. One realizes that this must be inevitable in a report of a symposium but it does reduce the value of the book as a reference work covering the subject in general. The value of the book is also slightly reduced because of the essentially contemporary nature of the papers, which record position points at the time of writing but have only minor review elements within them.

Notwithstanding these criticisms it is an interesting and important group of papers and there probably is no alternative collection of reasonably up-to-date material of this type available at the present time.

Spastics Society. The Spastics Society are producing a series of pamphlets aimed at explaining to the parents of spastic children the nature of the problems they will be wrestling with. The first two are entitled 'Your child is spastic—it seems like the end of the world', and 'The handicapped child within the family', the latter including some useful guidance to other books and pamphlets available to parents. A third, 'Growing up and growing away', is to be available shortly.

The pamphlets are free (except for postage) to paediatricians and others who might be in contact with parents, from: The Principal, Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 0HE.