

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.