naevi (illustrated in colour), inguinal hernia (when to operate), rectal prolapse, obstructive neonatal jaundice, imperforate anus, sternomastoid tumour, enuresis, and intersex. Result in brief—full marks!

DOUGLAS GAIRDNER

The Hospitalized Adolescent. A Guide to Managing the Ill and Injured Youth.

By ADELE D. HOFMANN, R. D. BECKER, and H. PAUL GABRIEL. (Pp. xvii+249; tables. US \$14.95.) The Free Press: New York. 1976.

Now that the rate of investment in perinatology may be slowing down the other borderland, between childhood and adult life, is due for more organized exploration, development, and profit-taking by pediatricians. 'The adolescent is the most difficult of all patients', remarks Anna Freud in a sympathetic foreword, 'and his handling presents serious embarrassment'. The difficulties and the embarrassments can be utterly disruptive in hospital, and by focusing on the hospital milieu this book lights up dark corners in all hospital practice. The authors style themselves a 'writing team' comprising medicine, psychiatry, nursing, and education. The writing is not overburdened with jargon and is easy to follow, though I tripped painfully once in a while over an occasional infelicity such as *remediation* and *unremediated*, which I take to come not from *mediate* but from *remedy*.

The base is established in the first of the book's three sections. The authors theorize on critical issues of normal illness, the impact of illness, implications of hospitalization. An important chapter illustrates interactions among ward staff, patients, and parents which may influence the patient's progress.

The second section discusses basic hospital routines and principles of management in what was to me a surprisingly interesting way. A persuasive case is made for separating patients not by sex but by age. Privacy, discipline, the role of nurses and the clergy, are dealt with honestly and thoughtfully. Adolescents need information based on reality and must be told what will happen to them. If the essential hospital team is to help them avoid irrational behaviour the staff must be 'tuned in' to specific fears such as forced dependence, rejection by peers, an alteration of life style. The final section is concerned with behavioural problems and difficult situations, handicaps, death, consent, and confidentiality—

all subjects liable to evoke not only argument but anguish or dismay.

Written 'from the patient's perspective', this book is pleasingly provocative. The approach is one of thoughtful, genuine goodwill. If it seems to me to be idealized and rather too permissive, that may well be the reaction of a geriatric paediatrician. But, with Anna Freud, I hope that there will be opportunity to put the proposed plans into operation so that they can be tried and tempered by experience. This book deserves a wide audience. Paediatricians whose own families have not yet grown up may gain from it more even than the authors intended.

JOHN APLEY

Neuroblastoma. Edited by CARL POCHEDLY. (Pp. 314; illustrated+tables. £16.50.) Arnold: London. 1976.

This book, edited by Carl Pochedly, is written largely by him with the assistance of other authors dealing with special subjects. It is devoted to a detailed review of the present knowledge regarding neuroblastoma and to a description of up-to-date management. There are separate chapters on the common presentations of neuroblastoma, the special features in infancy, and the problems of the tumour in the head and central nervous system and the skeleton. There are chapters devoted to catecholamine metabolism, histiogenesis and pathology, biology and immunology. These chapters discuss much of the basic research carried out on this malignant tumour which has proved so fascinating but frustrating. A separate chapter is devoted to the benign ganglioneuroma. The surgical, radiotherapeutic, and chemotherapeutic management are covered in three further chapters and the final chapter is concerned with prognosis.

The book as a whole achieves a very well-edited review of the present knowledge concerning the tumour. It is a book which makes easy and interesting reading and will be very useful to anyone wanting to find up-to-date information on the research in and management of neuroblastoma. It is a reflection on the failure of progress with this tumour that there is nothing new for the paediatric oncologist to be gleaned from its pages. Nevertheless, it is an excellent source of reference. This book will be a useful addition to all major libraries and to oncology departments.

PAT MORRIS JONES

Worldwide Variation in Human Growth

By P. B. EVELETH and J. M. TANNER. (Pp. 498; illustrated+tables. £20.00.) Cambridge University Press: London. 1976.

This book is the product of the International Biological Programme; it gives the findings of 340 projects in 42 countries (and many other data from other countries), concerning population differences in skeletal, dental, and pubertal development and the rate of maturation for Europeans, Africans, and Asiatics in their own continents and for their descendants elsewhere. It is described as 'by far the largest computation of growth data that has ever been made'. The book is designed to assess the potentiality for growth in poor environmental conditions, and provides an indication of the probable genetic differences between populations in body shape, size, and rate of maturation. There is a 158 page appendix with approximately 1200 references.

If the reader wants to confirm what he has always thought, that the mean height of 8-year-old girls of European ancestry is 1.5 cm greater in San Juan than in La Plata, this is the book in which to check it.

R. S. ILLINGWORTH

Rational Diagnosis and Treatment.

By HENRIK R. WULFF. (Pp. 182; illustrated+tables. £3.75.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1976.

This delightful short book has nothing specifically to do with paediatrics but is first-class reading for any doctor interested in precisely what he is doing when he talks about disease entities, makes a diagnosis, or tries to carry out or evaluate clinical research. It is unusually, clearly, and attractively written and contains many ideas which will help the ordinary practising clinician as well as the research worker to think more clearly about the way he works. The chapters on Venn diagrams and Bayesian mathematics give a clear account of concepts which are valuable but unfamiliar to many of us. (They also make it much easier for the dutiful paediatrician father to understand his children's maths homework.) There is also a very good simple exposition of the use of confidence limits. A most readable and enjoyable book.

R. J. ROBINSON