Book reviews

Psychiatry and the Paediatrician. By FREDERICK H. STONE. (Pp. 175; tables. £6.00.) Butterworths: London. 1976.

There has been a great need for a straightforward book on child psychiatry which would be of value to the paediatrician in training. It is, therefore, particularly welcome to have such a book from Dr. Fred Stone, written specifically to help the paediatrician to understand the emotional aspects of his patients' problems, how to deal with these, and also how to co-operate with the child psychiatrist. The book is easy to read and relatively brief. Dr. Stone is at his best when he describes situations familiar to every paediatrician—like the child with abdominal pain—and how he deals with them. He is particularly helpful in describing to the paediatrician how to conduct interviews with a psychotherapeutic content.

It is inevitable in a short book on this immensely complex subject that some matters should be dealt with rather sketchily. This is true of the discussion of some of the developmental disorders, like dyslexia. Surprisingly, too, the discussion of sleep disorders in preschool children is very perfunctory and their treatment seems to consist largely of reassuring the parents that 'nothing serious is amiss'—though on the previous page Dr. Stone has admonished the clinician not to advise a mother that 'there is nothing to worry about' since this has never stopped anyone from worrying!

Seen from the paediatric side of the fence, child psychiatrists do not divide themselves up according to which particular classical school of psychiatric theory they follow. However, there does seem to have been some division in recent years between those concerned with quantitative measures of child behaviour and its deviations and with the statistical testing of hypotheses, and those who prefer an intuitive understanding of children, families, and their problems. Epidemiology has been one of the main tools of the first group, insight of the

second group. Dr. Stone's book leaves no doubt that he feels happier in this second group, and it will leave most paediatricians in no doubt that he is the kind of child psychiatrist that they would like to help them. However, it does seem a pity that the two approaches cannot be brought somewhat closer together. For example, under the heading 'Is admission to hospital stressful?' the most recent study cited by Dr. Stone is from 1958, with no reference to the work of Michael Rutter or John Douglas. Then on page 5, where the Oedipus complex makes one of its two slightly apologetic appearances in this book, we are told, 'it is not at all uncommon for a father to be edged temporarily out of his connubial bed by a determined small son who wants exclusive possession of his mother'. We are, of course, all familiar with this pattern of behaviour, but the correctness of Dr. Stone's interpretation depends on whether, among young children with sleep disturbance, this pattern of behaviour is relatively commoner among boys than among girls. If Dr. Stone has any evidence about this he has not divulged it.

In spite of these criticisms, the book can be strongly recommended to the paediatric senior registrar or to the paediatrician who would like to know more about child psychiatry.

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Infectious Diseases of the Fetus and Newborn Infant. Edited by JACK S. REMINGTON and JEROME O. KLEIN. (Pp. 1121; illustrated + tables. £36.50). Saunders: Philadelphia, London, Toronto. 1976.

In the preface the editors describe their goal for this text as the provision of a complete, critical, and contemporary review of the subject of infections affecting the fetus and infant. They have, however, confined their attention to those infections of importance in the USA and Europe and excluded consideration of infections such as malaria which are of mainly

tropical interest, and some viral infections of the fetus and newborn on which information remains relatively incomplete (e.g. influenza and Epstein-Barr viruses).

The book starts with a general introduction to the subject followed by a chapter on immunology and resistance to infection which sets the problems of fetal and neonatal infection against the general background of modern immunology. Most of the remaining chapters are devoted to a single organism or group of organisms, such as rubella, listeriosis, or enteroviruses. Each chapter is organized in similar fashion with reviews of the history, microbiology, epidemiology, pathology, clinical signs and symptoms, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, and prevention of the infection concerned, and ends with a comprehensive list of up to 600 references. The common bacterial infections are mostly considered together under subheadings relating to the types of illness produced, and there are separate chapters on micro-organisms causing diarrhoea in the newborn and on the clinical pharmacology of antibacterial agents.

Although each chapter represents a complete review on a particular infection or aspect of infection, there is a remarkable unity about the book as a whole. This is the more surprising since no fewer than 23 different authors have contributed to it. The writing throughout is authoritative and critical, which makes for easy reading, and is well supported by good line drawings, diagrams, and photographs.

This is one of those rare books which can be seen to achieve the authors' avowed goal and, in the opinion of this reviewer, is destined to become the classic reference work in its field. The volume is unreservedly recommended for reference to all those whose work touches on perinatal medicine and should find a place in the personal bookshelves of all pathologists and clinicians with particular interests in perinatal infections.

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