respiration before, during, and immediately after birth. For any medical practitioner or physiologist with an interest in fetal and neonatal respiration this monograph should be a delight. It starts with a chapter on the embryology and morphology of the developing lung and this is followed by a consideration of fetal lung liquid production, composition, and distribution, and its contribution to amniotic fluid. Fetal breathing, and the initiation of alveolar aeration after birth, and the production and role of surfactant material are considered in some detail. Changes in the pulmonary circulation, capillary permeability, and lymph flow at birth are well reviewed, but more information about the mechanisms of closure of the ductus arteriosus and the umbilical arteries might have been given. Oxygen and carbon dioxide transport are well explained as is acid-base balance, although the units and explanations given are in terms of mmHg and pH rather than kilopascal and hydrogen ion concentration. This may upset a few readers but I suspect not many. Chapters 9 to 13 deal with the pathophysiology, prevention, and therapy of hyaline membrane disease, neonatal lung oedema and haemorrhage, aspiration syndromes, and apnoeic attacks.

The pleasure of this book is partly due to its scientific content but largely to the lucid presentation of an enthusiastic single author.

FORRESTER COCKBURN

Viral Diseases of the Fetus and Newborn. Volume XVII Major Problems in Clinical Paediatrics. By J. B. Hanshaw and J. H. Dudgeon. (Pp. 356; illustrated + tables. £14.00, hardback.) Holt-Saunders: East-borne. 1978.

The discovery 37 years ago by Sir Norman

Gregg that an inconspicuous illness such as rubella could penetrate the maternal defences and cause extensive damage to the fetus completely changed the existing concept of the safety of the embryo *in utero*. It produced intensive investigation of the relationship of viral infection to congenital damage and a search for other possible viruses of comparable importance was begun. Inevitably a mass of data has accumulated and a formidable task awaited those willing to undertake the extraction of a summary in monograph form. The authors were eminently suited to the task, being well known and highly regarded in the field of paediatric virology. Their collaboration is most timely and will be warmly welcomed and appreciated. Although they say that they have written for the clinician—'to provide the understanding necessary not only for diagnosis and case management but also in order to be able to provide advice to families exposed to infection'—the microbiological and pathological background will make the monograph invaluable reading for many other workers.

Rubella and cytomegalovirus naturally take pride of place and are covered in carefully assessed detail. Herpes simplex virus, enteroviruses, varicella-zoster, pox-viruses, hepatitis, and others are dealt with in proportion to their known relevance, and in order to provide balance there are sections on the development of fetal immune mechanisms and on the pathological changes produced by viral infection of the placenta and cord.

The presentation is good, the established material is given in substance and the unconfirmed aspects are assessed. Where the authors have a personal approach not generally accepted this is stated. There is an excellent bibliography and the volume can be commended to all who have an

interest in the present state of knowledge of virus infection as it affects the embryo, the neonate, and in the implications for the child thereafter.

J. NAGINGTON

Shorter notices

Diagnosis and Primary Care of Accidents and Emergencies in Children. A Manual for the Casualty Officer and the Family Doctor. By C. M. Illingworth. (Pp. 134; illustrated. £4.25, paperback.) Blackwell: Oxford. 1978.

Highly practical manual designed to be carried in the 'whitecoat pocket', and equally strong on the common trivial complaints of childhood (nappy rash, rectal prolapse) as on the serious emergencies, both medical and surgical.

Prenatal Diagnosis of Genetic Disease. By D. C. Siggers. (Pp. 69; illustrated + tables. £3.25, paperback.) Blackwell: Oxford. 1978.

A small and unpretentious manual, setting out clearly the essential facts about which the practising clinician must now be well versed—chromosomal disorders, neural tube defects, inherited and prenatal diagnosed biochemical disorders, x-linked recessive disorders, and amniocentesis with the many difficult decisions engenders.