Book reviews

A Colour Atlas of Clinical Conditions in Paedodontics. By R. Rapp and G. B. Winter. (Pp. 142; illustrated. £12.00 hardback.) Wolfe: London. 1979.

This is the first coloured diagnostic atlas of paediatric dentistry to be published. It is not meant to be comprehensive but a visual guide to many abnormalities and diseases of the hard and soft tissues encountered in the oral and facial structures of children and adolescents.

The opening chapter is divided into sections based on the anatomical features of the head and is largely concerned with developmental anomalies of the cranium and face. With the aid of excellent colour pictures and x-rays, it illustrates a series of abnormal conditions with their variations, each succinctly described in brief accompanying paragraphs giving the salient features.

The second chapter is the longest and covers abnormalities of the teeth with reference to number, size, shape, structure, and colour. Although some sections may be of greater interest to paedodontists, paediatricians will find the beautifully illustrated descriptions of anomalies of tooth structure and colour especially illuminating as a number of these are iatrogenic. The coverage of gingival and periodontal conditions in chapter 3 is good but may prove confusing if taken in isolation. Chapter 4 deals with the lips, alveolar mucosa, cheeks, and floor of mouth including congenital, infective, and traumatic conditions. Many of the illustrations amplify conditions partially described in earlier sections. Except for the section on clefts, chapters 5, 6, and 7 merely add a little to the diagnostic pictures already seen and are probably of greater interest to dentists.

It was an inspired act to have a chapter on the limbs. The illustrations and content really do fulfil the authors' intention that '... they either complete a clinical picture of, or are closely related to ...' conditions already described in the atlas.

It would be wrong to claim that this book is above criticism, especially for the paedodontist who may feel it is incomplete and wishes it contained some rather more characteristic examples of certain conditions. Nevertheless, it should prove an

excellent book for medical and dental students and clinicians, providing an easily usable reference book to assist in the recognition and diagnosis of oral and dental disease.

EILEEN C. JAFFE

British Paediatric Association Classification of Diseases (in two volumes). By BPA. (Vol. 1: Pp. 220. Vol. 2: Pp. 94, index. £4.00 for the two volumes, paperback.) BPA: London. 1979.

There must be people for whom the classification of disease represents the ultimate challenge of scientific medicine. As one who is happy to leave all classification to others, I approached these volumes with trepidation.

The aim of the Health Statistics subcommittee of the BPA in preparing the new classification of diseases was to design a supplement compatible with the ninth revision of the WHO *International Classification of Diseases*, but modified to be of use specifically in paediatric and neonatal departments. The 3-digit main ICD code is followed by a 1- or 2-digit subcode. The first 4 digits of the code in the paediatric supplement are compatible with the ICD and only the fifth digit is specific to the paediatric classification. It is pointed out in the introduction that the general use of such a unified coding system will greatly facilitate data retrieval for preparation of health statistics or research purposes.

The first volume shows the layout of the codes and is divided into 16 chapters according to type of condition, areas of the body affected, or stage of life at which a condition may occur. The second volume comprises an alphabetical index of diseases with the appropriate codes. For coding purposes the alphabetical index alone should be sufficient, although it is intended that it will be used in conjunction with the main ICD.

The new supplements are far more comprehensive than the old *Cardiff Diagnostic Classification* which they replace. However, the only test of such a classification is to determine how easily and efficiently it can be used in practice.

Unfortunately I ran into trouble on my first attempt to use it for coding disease in

the newborn because there are no codes appropriate for periventricular leucomalacia. As this is one of the most common and important forms of brain damage in preterm infants and is now diagnosed in life using computerised axial tomography it seems a pity that there is no code for it. Other codes were found moderately easily as soon as the quirks of the index were recognised. The dislike of compilers for multi-indexing means that the structure of a particular index has to be understood before it can be used. In this one for instance, rhesus iso-immunisation appears under 'incompatibility—(blood)', and hyaline membrane disease under 'syndrome—respiratory distress (idiopathic)'. This is extremely irritating to the occasional user like myself who would prefer an alphabetical list three times as long that would enable him to find a condition under whichever name he cared to look, rather than having to guess where it will have been listed. The index will however prove stimulating to clerical staff who revel in the nuances of inside-out alphabetical listing and may even learn to code periventricular leucomalacia under 348.1 ('Anoxic brain damage. Excludes: when of newborn'), until the next revision is published.

Despite these criticisms the codes do represent a worth-while advance and should of course be introduced by all paediatric departments. If users keep the BPA informed of any problems they encounter there may be hope that, in the future, an optional idiot-proof version will be made available for those of us who find indices difficult to use.

J. S. WIGGLESWORTH

Liver Disorders in Childhood. Postgraduate Paediatrics Series. By A. P. Mowat. (Pp. 407; illustrated + tables. £18.50 hardback.) Butterworth: London. 1979.

I have been able to assess the usefulness of this book as a source of clinical reference in dealing with the relatively small numbers of hepatic problems coming my way. It is predictably good, both because Alex Mowat writes from a depth and breadth of experience of paediatric liver disorders unique in this country, and because he writes well.

It is a pleasantly compact volume to handle, the print and reproductions are clear, and it is well illustrated with photomicrographs, line drawings, and clinical photographs. References are generous and some as recent as 1978 are included.

Two introductory chapters discuss the anatomy and physiology of the liver and biliary tract, perhaps a little too briefly. Hyperbilirubinaemia, conjugated and unconjugated, is the subject of the next two chapters. Clinical conditions giving rise to jaundice in infancy are clearly set out, and by using the tables and checklists of possible diagnoses, the general paediatrician is unlikely to overlook treatable causes of the neonatal hepatitis syndrome. Practical advice on a suitable and humane programme of investigation is given, including a basic outline of surgical techniques for appropriate cases.

Subsequent chapters deal with infections: hepatic failure, Reye's syndrome (an excellent review and guide to management), toxic and metabolic disorders, genetic, structural, and biochemical disorders, cirrhosis, cystic fibrosis, tumours, and vascular abnormalities. The developing world is not forgotten, and specific chapters deal with sickle-cell anaemia and Indian childhood cirrhosis. I particularly appreciated the final chapters in which methods of investigating liver and biliary function are discussed.

There are an irritatingly large number of typographical errors: for example on p. 59, phenobarbitone is referred to as an enzyme 'reducer' when 'inducer' was surely intended. The index is mainly adequate, but it eschews some eponyms in common use (for example, Alagille disease, Byler disease) whose correct titles are long and difficult to remember, and therefore to find. There will surely be further editions in which these small defects can be remedied. At £18.50, reasonable in 1979, this book is an excellent investment. It has been worth waiting for.

J. A. DODGE

Pediatric Orthopedic Radiology, volume 15 in the series Saunders' Monographs in Clinical Radiology. By M. B. Ozonoff. (Pp. 516; illustrated. £22.50 hardback.) Saunders: Eastbourne. 1979.

I am sure that most radiologists' hearts

sink when they are faced with an awkward problem in paediatric orthopaedic radiology. The trouble owes much to the fact that the two disciplines have so little in common that the respective specialists are not aware of the others' difficulties.

Dr Ozonoff is in a unique position to bridge the gap between the orthopaedic surgeon and the radiologist: he is Director of Radiology at Newington Children's Hospital in Connecticut and has also had experience in orthopaedic surgery.

The book catalogues the disorders of childhood which affect the skeleton, the first chapters dealing with specific parts of the skeleton and the later ones with generalised disorders. This makes for easy use of the book: none of the searching that bedevils reference to books written by committees is necessary. Most of the sections on specific disorders are masterpieces of brevity and lucidity. The current thinking is presented with relevant recent references. Indeed many sections could be read with equal reward by orthopaedic surgeons or radiologists.

The section on the normal hip is most valuable. The host of measurable variants, lines, angles, and levels are described and, what is most important, their significance is given due weight. One or two readers may balk at the lines drawn along the femoral shafts to show the Von Rosen sign in Figs 3-8 B but this must not be allowed to detract from the overall impression of reliability; I am sure the section will be used to settle many viewing-room arguments. Hip arthrography in congenital dislocation discovered late is strongly advocated. There are few who would condemn this procedure out of hand, but many British surgeons feel that the information gained is frequently spurious and that the extra irradiation is only justified in cases of unusual difficulty.

The book is densely packed with information and cannot be read quickly. It is a work of reference of remarkable authority and depth. It will prove a most valuable book to radiologists and orthopaedic surgeons who deal with children.

MICHAEL WATSON

Toys and Playthings in Development and Remediation. By J. and E. Newson. (Pp. 279; illustrated. £1.50 paperback.) Penguin: Middlesex. 1979. A hardback

edition, price £7.95, is available from Allen and Unwin: London.

In their latest book John and Elizabeth Newson have taken a long and detailed look at the part played by toys in the developmental progress of young children. The book itself is virtually in two parts. The first and longest part describes in fascinating detail for parents and professionals in child development the importance of play, 'perhaps the most serious and significant of all human activities'. The message which comes over very clearly is that play for the infant and young child is essentially social communication. Toys are no more than pegs on which to hang our play and serve to structure the child's experience. Development of fine manipulative skills, speech and language, the growth of role and fantasy play, and of concepts and abstract thinking need continuing social exchanges with a caring adult. It is compelling reading, not only for parents but for doctors, hospital nurses, nursery nurses, therapists, and others who work with young children.

The second part of the book on play and playthings for the handicapped child is perhaps less successful. A chapter on using toys for assessment seems almost irrelevant in the context of this book. A discussion on problem-orientated and developmental approaches to the remedial use of toys is of interest to therapists, but for parents of a severely handicapped child the problem often is that the child simply does not play. Drive and a will to achieve may often be quenched in blind physically handicapped, or autistic children because the handicapping condition prevents them from reaching their true potential. The authors describe these problems very clearly but offer little in practical terms to parents on how to cope. A later section in which three severely mentally handicapped children with obsessional traits and mannerisms are described in anecdotal form gives useful guidelines on management if a one-to-one relationship with a therapist can be maintained in a selected environment over a period of time.

John Holder's drawings are a delightful addition to a book which deservedly will be widely read.

DOROTHY F. EGAN