

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 exchange 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 the 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 obsessive 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