Book reviews

Down's Syndrome. The Psychology of Mongolism. By David Gibson. (Pp. 366; illustrated + tables. £18.50, hardback.) Cambridge University Press: Cambridge. 1979.

This book is a superb review of past and present literature on Down's syndrome from both sides of the Atlantic. Each aspect of psychological development has its own chapter with evaluation at the end. A more concise summary of some chapters would have been helpful. The chapters on foundation of intelligence and language are particularly good. Important medical aspects which contribute to the psychological profile are given due prominence—for example, intermittent hearing loss and disproportionate delay of language development—treatment with thyroxine having no effect in those who are euthyroid.

Remediation programmes are discussed and the short-term gains compared with the few long-term results.

This book is strongly recommended to anybody who is interested in Down's syndrome.

GILLIAN BAIRD

Pediatric Bronchology. By Edgár Székely and Edit Farkas. (Pp. 628; illustrated + tables. £39.50, hardback.) University Park Press: Baltimore. 1979.

This massive book is based on the authors' experience and expertise in over 30 000 bronchoscopic and radiological examinations of the bronchial tree during a period of 20 years at the Public Children's Sanatorium, Budapest. By its very nature, therefore, this volume is authoritative and is a highly significant contribution to our knowledge in this field. The contents of the book are divided into three sections: a general introduction to the concepts of paediatric bronchology, a detailed discussion of congenital abnormalities and pathological entities affecting the bronchi,

and an account of the contribution made by bronchial catheterisation. The chapters are well illustrated with good quality colour endobronchial photographs and well reproduced contrast bronchograms. There is an extensive bibliography and indexes to authors and subjects.

Paediatric bronchology is a highly specialised field and there can be few institutions that could rival the experience of the authors. This work therefore will be of the greatest interest to all those in this branch of paediatrics. It should be eagerly read and used as a book of reference by paediatricians interested in pulmonary diseases, and by all those in allied specialities involved with examination of the bronchial tree in infants and children. Undoubtedly paediatric radiologists will find much new information to assist their evaluation of bronchographical examinations.

The book is beautifully produced and bound. The scope of the contents reflects the interests of the authors so that the reader must not expect all tracheo-bronchial diseases to be covered. For example, burns of the tracheobronchial tract, an increasingly common occurrence in this country, are not mentioned. It is unfortunate that the English translation does not match the other qualities of the production. The text therefore is not uniformly clear and it is to be hoped that this will be improved in the next edition. The references are mainly to European Continental literature which poses considerable problems to the English reader if original articles are to be consulted.

GORDON H. BUSH

Surgery of the Neonate. By Arnold G. Coran, Douglas M. Behrendt, William H. Weintraube, and Denis C. Lee. (Pp. 272; illustrated + tables. \$32.50, hardback.) Little, Brown: Boston. 1978.

This volume, in the very specialised field of surgery in children in early infancy,

details the techniques used by a group of paediatric surgeons in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The text is clear, well produced, easy to follow, and reasonably succinct. There is a brief list of references, some x-ray plates, and black and white line drawings. Most of the drawings are clear and well produced, but the quality of the radiographs leaves much to be desired. The abdominal x-rays are adequate, but I found the reproductions of the chest x-rays and cardiac angiograms disappointing and of little value.

Descriptions of individual diseases and forms of treatment are reasonably clear, but inevitably in this type of book the amount of text does not allow detailed discussion of the results of treatment, nor does it give alternative approaches.

I do not think this book will have a wide appeal in this country. The work of the neonatal surgeon in general no longer includes special areas—such as cardiac surgery, this falling within the province of the specialised departments.

I feel the book is too specialised for the general registrar in training, and inadequate for the specialist who will seek a more comprehensive presentation and discussion of alternative techniques and results.

P. B. DEVEREAUX

Shorter notice

Aplastic Anaemia. Edited by C. G. Gear. (Pp. 249; illustrated + tables. £12.50, hardback.) Baillière Tindall. 1979.

Comprehensive coverage of a fashionable and fascinating topic. Strong on clinical features and the limited treatment available, but I should have liked more about the pathophysiology of marrow failure. A useful chapter about marrow failure in childhood with comprehensive references up to 1978. Otherwise a book for the specialist and/or the enthusiast.