chest in detail in a normal baby; I doubt if I have detected physical signs in the chest of an asymptomatic infant.

For those doing normal examinations the book lacks direction about what parts are really important—namely, dislocated hips, congenital heart disease, or cataracts—which will not have been obvious to the mother who will have already been over the child with a fine tooth comb—but which nevertheless require treatment. It is particularly sad that it is not stated that such examinations should be done with the mother present.

There are several small irritating inaccuracies or inconsistencies. In chapter 6 the red blotches at the nape and the glabella are described as haemangiomas, yet this aetiology is denied in chapter 8. The harlequin colour change is not dependent lividity; acrocyanosis is not cyanosis of the face and scalp.

Although the book contains much useful information, the inaccuracies and lack of direction make it unsuitable as an introduction to normal neonatal examination, and there is insufficient data for it to be of value for those caring for the sick infant.

N R C ROBERTON

Understanding ECGs in Infants and Children, second edition. By L C Harris and Ellen Feinstein. (Pp. 109; illustrated + tables. \$12.50 paperback.) Little Brown: Boston. 1979.

Although this book is written exclusively about electrocardiograms in infants and children, the authors begin by explaining the basic principles of electrocardiography. The explanation of the calculation of the axis of the electrocardiogram—so useful in paediatric cardiology—is clear and well illustrated. There are many examples and tests so that the reader can be certain he has understood the lesson. The vector approach is likewise carefully described with many clear illustrations. I found the practice of phrasing the questions in multiple choice

format irritating and unnecessary; it would have been better to use the space to allow ECG tracings, and comments relevant to them, to appear on the same page.

The typical ECG records in the common simple congenital heart lesions are shown and the criteria for right and left ventricular hypertrophy are listed. The tables at the end of the book give normal standards for infants and children up to 16 years. There is also a good section on dysrhythmias and ECG changes in electrolyte disorders, once again with many examples of tracings.

It is a pity that the clear diagram of an ECG complex at the beginning has the S-T segment wrongly labelled and that the final test for the reader at the end of the book has an illustration of Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome type B labelled as type A. Small points, but worrying to the reader.

This book is particularly suitable for house officers and paediatricians in training. They will not find a clearer or better illustrated text on children's electrocardiograms.

O SCOTT

Shorter notices

Multiple Choice Questions on Paediatrics. By Roy Meadow. (Pp. 60. £1.90 paperback.) Blackwell Scientific: Oxford. 1979.

A useful little paperback containing 175 multiple choice questions and 12 brief case histories with questions on diagnosis and management. The MCQs are well constructed and in the form familiar to most British examinees, and there is unusually little to quarrel with in the content or answers. Helpful to the potential examiner or examinee; but also of some genuine educational value to the student learning or revising paediatrics.

Paediatric Orthopaedics and Fractures, second edition, in two volumes. By W J W Sharrard. (Pp. vol. 1, 740; vol. 2, 922; both with index. Illustrated + tables.

£70.00 for the two volumes, hardback. Blackwell Scientific: Oxford. 1979.

In the 8 years since this work was first published, the number of pages has increased by half, it now appears in two volumes, and the cost has risen more than 4-fold. The whole subject of paediatric orthopaedic surgery and orthopaedic trauma is still covered by one surgeon. The increase in content is to bring the problems of paediatric orthopaedic surgery up to date and to increase the usefulness of the text by giving more details of operative techniques. Moreover, by extending the list of references and the illustrations, the value of the volumes has been increased by making the catalogue of diseases, and the literature about them more complete. Sharrard has maintained the high standard set in the first edition. The standard of presentation and the care with updating the material will ensure that this edition will be one of the standard books of reference for orthopaedic surgeons and those in training, and that future editions will be awaited with pleasure.

A Scheme of Paediatric Neurological Investigation. By Nicholas Cavanagh. (Pp. 48; paperback.) Obtainable free of charge from Geigy Pharmaceuticals, Wimblehurst Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 4AB. 1979.

A small, attractively produced booklet listing the investigations worth considering in children with common neurological problems such as fits, mental subnormality, and acute encephalopathy. Based on practice at The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. Notes explain the reasons for the tests where these are not obvious. Because tests which may rarely be relevant, as well as mandatory ones, are included, the list must be used with discretion to avoid investigatory excesses. The reader must also note that certain specified problems are not covered. A very useful compilation, of value to the paediatric senior house officer and his seniors.