

Allergic Diseases of Infancy, Childhood, and Adolescence. Edited by C W Bierman and D S Pearlman. (Pp. 837; illustrated + tables. £28.25 hardback.) Saunders: Philadelphia. 1980.

The authors have produced a welcome major textbook on paediatric allergic disease. It is a multi-author book which is divided into 12 main sections and 67 chapters, with many good tables and illustrations. The Harvard system of references is used and each bibliography includes a sensible list of old and new references. The sections cover the expected areas of basic immunology and clinical elements, and there is much discussion of management. A good preface relates the modern text to the historical concepts of von Pirquet, and defines allergy and atopy. It is a relief to find that food allergy is not over emphasised, and that adequate space is allotted to dermatological, otorhinolaryngological, and ophthalmological problems. Some space is also devoted to rheumatic, haematological, connective tissue, and renal diseases; these are often omitted from paediatric literature concerned with disorders of immunity.

Any reader who is interested in this and related fields will find this book useful, although the generalist may consider a smaller book (some examples of which are available) to be more appropriate; but the increasing interest in allergy should mean that this book will be very valuable to departments and paediatric libraries.

C B S WOOD

Allergies to Milk. By S L Bahna and D C Heiner. (Pp. 202; illustrated + tables. \$23.50 hardback.) Grune & Stratton: New York. 1980.

Most paediatricians now recognise that cows' milk protein intolerance, or cows' milk allergy, is a significant problem of childhood despite widespread scepticism concerning this diagnosis in the past, and the general acceptance relates to better diagnostic criteria. The amount of in-

formation on this subject has increased rapidly, and the authors have produced a book which is completely devoted to this topic; it is clearly and carefully written, and has a detailed bibliography.

The chapter on diagnosis is particularly helpful, indicating current complexities because of the lack of specific tests. The concept of relief of symptoms with milk elimination, relapse with challenge, and relief again with further cows' milk elimination is stressed, and the authors emphasise that laboratory tests related to such dietetic manoeuvres are a valuable aid in making a firm diagnosis. Comprehensive information is given about currently available tests and these are critically reviewed, and the danger of overdiagnosis is stressed, especially when there is a risk of inadequate assessment leading to misdiagnosis of more serious disease. Differential diagnosis is discussed in detail, but the importance of cows' milk-protein intolerance itself (as well as lactose intolerance) as a complication of acute gastroenteritis in infancy is not emphasised. The section on prevention gives a detailed list of the attributes of breast milk, and provides a comprehensive account of the composition of breast milk and the various feeding formulas used in the USA.

The comment that there is an urgent need for the medical profession and the infant food industry to unite in assisting mothers to practise better infant feeding is particularly pertinent.

The book ends on a practical note with recipes for milk-free diets; the authors permit these to be photocopied for the patient's use.

This is the most comprehensive, yet compact, monograph on this subject published to date, and I highly recommend it.

J A WALKER-SMITH

Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology: a Review of Ear, Nose, and Throat Problems in Children Edited by B Jazbi. (Pp. 289; illustrated + tables. £15.95 hardback.) Appleton-Century-Crofts: New York. 1980.

This book is a series of review articles on otorhinolaryngological subjects collected for the benefit of paediatricians and family practitioners, the aim of which is to cover the specialty of paediatric otorhinolaryngology in a single volume, with the emphasis on 'fundamental concepts of common ear, nose, and throat diseases'. I do not think this is fulfilled, mainly because of editorial errors. In order to make the chapters on deafness and vertigo valuable and interesting, space should have been found for a discussion of basic audiometric and vestibular testing. The five contributions on middle ear infection and ventilation tend to be confusing because they overlap, and there is only brief reference made to chronic suppurative otitis media. Airways obstruction is well covered, but tracheostomy and nasotracheal intubation are hardly mentioned. The chapter on poisoning in children is irrelevant, and the operation of laryngotracheoplasty is far removed from fundamental concepts and common diseases. In addition to the editorial imbalance, the individual contributions vary considerably; some are excellent but others do not reach that standard, cannot recommend this book for general use, and I think the needs of the paediatrician and family practitioner are better served by the standard otorhinolaryngological texts.

J HIBBERD

Shorter notice

Making Music with the Young Handicapped Child. A Guide for Parents. By Elaine Streeter. (Pp. 24; illustrated £1.20.) Music Therapy Publications London. 1980.

This is a clearly written, practical handbook primarily addressed to parents, although those caring for children should find it helpful and encouraging too. The theme is communication through music-making, but no special musical talent is required. Toy libraries might have been quoted as a possible source of the more expensive material described.