Book reviews

The Child with Cancer. Clinical Approaches to Psychosocial Care. Research in Psychosocial Aspects. Edited by Jerome L Schulman and Mary Jo Kupst. (Pp. 216; illustrated + tables. \$18.50 hardback.) Thomas: Springfield. 1980.

Although it seems probable that most paediatricians are sensitive to the needs of the child with cancer and his parents, if not his whole family, it is only in the last few years that attention has been more formally focused on the psychosocial aspects of childhood malignancy. Meetings such as those sponsored by the Leukaemia Research Fund have performed a valuable role in highlighting various problem areas, not the least that of cancer as a chronic disease rather than an immediate threat to life.

Are books on such subjects helpful, and is transatlantic experience relevant for practice here? Those wondering this could dip into *The child with cancer* which has 31 contributors and is divided into two parts. The first part is a review of current practice as evaluated by a group of psychosocial professionals at 22 American centres. Subjects discussed include: parents' groups, care of siblings, continuing involvement with families after death. As one would expect, practice varies widely between centres. The second part consists of papers discussed at a meeting on research into psychosocial aspects of childhood cancer. Here are described attempts to predict which families would cope with a diagnosis of leukaemia, and to follow up families who had lost a child.

Perhaps for the medical members of the team the most valuable role of such meetings and publication is to emphasise certain areas where extra time and care are needed. For example, stress on siblings has been insufficiently appreciated; as Madame Alby (the only non-American contributor) points out, stopping treatment in a patient who has remained in remission is unquestionably a period of strain.

There is unavoidable repetition and, perhaps, a general assumption that psychosocial intervention is always a good thing—a hypothesis which like others must surely be subjected to trial.

JUDITH M CHESSELLS

Facial Features of Neurologic Syndromes. By P Dyken and M D Miller. Illustrations by K Waldo and J Hagan. (Pp. 449; illustrated + tables. £36.25 hardback.) Mosby: St Louis. 1980.

Facial perception is a highly developed skill, a large area of occipital cortex being designed for the purpose. It is, therefore, right to attempt to widen the scope from consideration of syndrome characteristics, such as provided by Goodman and Gorlin's *The face in genetic disorders*, and Smith's *Recognisable patterns of human malformation*, to consideration of acquired disorders of both structure and function.

After the initial chapter on facial embryogenesis, the characteristics of the normal face are described in detail. This is achieved by constructing reference lines between various bony and soft tissue landmarks. The face is divided into segments (upper, middle, and lower), and there follows a description of the kinds of abnormalities which occur in each. While reference lines make for orderly viewing, this is not the way the brain naturally approaches a visual task. We are told that the lines are important, and no doubt they could be, but the usefulness is diminished by the lack of normal values (the only norms provided are those for head circumference). This section makes tedious reading. Statements such as 'freckles . . . are especially meaningful when seen around the lips and central middle face', are unhelpful and are unlikely to be remembered unless anchored by an illustration and a label.

The remaining three-quarters of the book continues the same segmental theme using it to describe the syndromes which are expressed in different facial areas. This naturally leads to repetition, many syndromes involving more than one facial segment. The nature of the task demands that the presentation be primarily visual with supporting text. The standard of reproduction is fair, although some of the photographs fail to show what was intended, sometimes due to lack of colour. An attractive feature is that several examples of the less unusual syndromes are generally given, so that the characteristics they have in common can be appreciated. The text becomes a little

unbalanced in the direction of neurological exposition. For example Leigh's disease has 20 lines giving details of the biochemistry and histopathology but only 2 lines on the facial appearance. There is superficial discussion of ocular motor abnormalities and disorders of head movement, but not of facial movement. I was left wondering for what readership the book was intended, and whether the aim had become confused. In its present form it does not successfully complement its rivals in the field.

RICHARD O ROBINSON

A Handbook of Clinical Genetics. By J S Fitzsimmons, assisted by E M Fitzsimmons. (Pp. 159; illustrated + tables. £5.15 paperback.) Heinemann Medical Books: London. 1980.

The preface states that this book was written initially for nurses and the emphasis throughout is directed to the nurses' role in the genetic counselling service. The book outlines the fundamentals of clinical genetics and the current problems likely to be encountered, and can be recommended to any interested paramedical worker or medical student doing his paediatric appointment. It is easy to read and enlivened with occasional cartoons, although the line drawings illustrating the various dysmorphic syndromes are not as evocative as clinical photographs. The book should not be used as a reference work as there are one or two errors in the lists of single gene disorders, and most of the medical facts should already be known to paediatricians. However, with its emphasis on counselling as opposed to information giving, it could usefully be read by anyone doing his own genetic counselling or by anyone who is curious to know what goes on in a genetic counselling clinic.

CAROLINE BERRY

Heart Disease in Infants and Children. Edited by G Graham and E Ross. (Pp. 512; illustrated + tables. £45.00 hardback.) Arnold: London. 1980.

This book is edited by a clinical cardiologist from London and a paediatrician from Switzerland. It is technically

well produced in a large format with a pleasing layout. There are 31 contributors, mainly from England and Switzerland, and their styles of writing and presentation vary. The book was written for paediatricians with limited experience of cardiology, and for cardiologists with limited experience of young children. The editors have avoided needless repetition but they have at times forgotten their readership and given unnecessary details on some points and insufficient guidance on others.

There are three sections. The first deals with general aspects—such as, aetiology and genetics, the problem of pulmonary hypertension, the practical management of heart failure and methods of its investigation. It is surprising that the pharmacological manipulation of the ductus is so little discussed as it is of interest both to the paediatrician and the cardiologist. The paediatrician would like to know whether, when, and how to use indomethacin and prostaglandins. The use of the latter is not mentioned under pulmonary atresia nor is it mentioned under critical coarctation with a ductus, when it may be of value. The mechanism of arrhythmias is well described but there is little practical advice on, for example, the best drug to use nowadays for a critically ill newborn infant with supraventricular tachycardia. The section on cardiological examination is thorough and the diagrams geometrically innovative, but such detail as varying degrees of splitting of the second sound is more suitable for the paediatric cardiologist than for the paediatrician.

The second section deals with individual heart lesions and these are clearly described. Some lesions are well and lavishly illustrated, others not at all. The late complications after surgery however, are hardly mentioned and more information on them would have been useful.

The last section deals with acquired heart diseases—rheumatic fever, hypertension, cardiac tumours, and cardiomyopathies. Cardiomyopathies are discussed in great depth and this is a good section for reference.

There is no doubt that paediatricians will find this book interesting but it is a large book and an expensive one, and they have many other specialties to study: it will enable cardiologists to learn about congenital heart disease but it is a pity that there is not a separate chapter devoted to the newborn infant.

This book will be particularly helpful to the paediatrician or cardiologist in training while he is attached to a paediatric

cardiology unit and is seeing children with such conditions.

OLIVE SCOTT

The Injured Child. Surgical Management. Edited by J G Randolph, M M Ravitch, K J Welch, C D Benson, and E Aberdeen. (Pp. 420; illustrated + tables. £29.25 hardback.) YB Medical Publishers: London. 1979.

This is not a handbook for a busy casualty officer; it is an authoritative textbook that should be studied in depth and not consulted for immediate answers to clinical problems. The 24 contributors from North America with the help of one from Europe, are concerned with the management of life-threatening trauma and each writes from his clinical experience, which by English standards is immense. Most of the chapters are taken from the third edition of *Pediatric surgery* (Chicago Year Book Medical Publishers Inc., 1978), which undoubtedly has helped to keep the price down.

Any clinician who is responsible for an accident department that admits children will find useful the chapters on organisation, anaesthesia, respiratory support, and intravenous techniques. The middle section, which deals with trauma to the thorax, abdomen, central nervous system, and the genitourinary tract is well presented. However some topics are dealt with only superficially—for example, intravenous alimentation is dismissed in one page. The chapter on surgical infections is of general interest, but the section on congenital immune deficiency states seems hardly relevant. However, the chapter that follows which is about acute renal failure is of great importance and is written in a precise style. Child abuse is not forgotten and a well-balanced chapter is included.

There are good line drawings and the x-rays are clear and well chosen. Each chapter has references, but most cite American books and journals.

Written mainly by surgeons and anaesthetists, this book will appeal to clinicians in these two disciplines. I cannot agree with the editors that it should prove useful to family practitioners, although it would certainly be of value to any paediatrician working in conjunction with his general surgical colleagues. In striving to reduce the high mortality and morbidity from trauma, each accident department

should have access to this book, and it is recommended as post-Fellowship reading.

D DRAKE

Newborn Respiratory Care. Edited by M D Lough, T J Williams, and J E Rawson. (Pp. 333; illustrated + tables. £17.00 hardback.) YB Medical Publishers: London. 1979.

This book is the neonatal version of *Paediatric respiratory therapy* now in its second edition, which also has Dr Lough as its senior editor.

The first chapter gives a simple overview of the embryological and fetal development of the cardiac and respiratory systems and their postnatal changes. Chapters 2 to 5 describe neonatal resuscitation and pulmonary disorders, and neonatal radiology and pharmacology. Although the descriptions of disease are correct they are so brief that they would not give enough information to enable the management of a case of respiratory distress or meconium aspiration. Base therapy and the relevance of $Paco_2$ measurements are barely mentioned and the reason why some drugs (tolazoline) are described whereas others (diuretics) are not, remains a mystery.

Transportation of the sick neonate, practical procedures in neonatology, and the basic nursing care of neonates with lung disease are adequately covered in chapters 6 to 8. Chapters 9 and 10 comprise 30% of the text and contain detailed descriptions of the techniques and apparatus used when applying CPAP and IPPV. Although the text concentrates on these subjects it does not give enough information to enable one to cope with the overall management of an infant so treated. This also applies to chapter 11 which consists of a short description by Dr Boros on the management of infants with respiratory failure. Unfortunately, of the ventilators used in the UK only the Baby Bird and the Bourne BP 200 are described, and there are no data on Dräger ventilators, nor are there data on Bennett's, Loosco's, or Vickers's machines.

The book ends with a good account of the emotional and psychological problems of parents whose infants are in neonatal intensive care units. Although this is an important facet of neonatology it is curiously out of place in a book that is otherwise totally dedicated to the lung, and deals with none of the other peripheral activities important in the care of severe neonatal respiratory disease.