This is an outstanding work and should be read and kept as a reference book by paediatricians, clinical geneticists, and all others concerned with genetic counselling.

P F BENSON


This book has been written to instruct doctors to recognise the most common disturbances of heart rate, rhythm, and conduction disorders in children. A scheme for the interpretation of cardiac dysrhythmias is given and initially this is straightforward, but when it is expanded to cover every possible abnormality it becomes complex. The first half of the book provides a wealth of hand-drawn electrocardiograms of all dysrhythmias and the abnormalities shown are clearly indicated. The second half is divided into three sections: the first shows illustrations and gives short case histories of patients with disturbances of heart rate and rhythm, the second shows disturbances in cardiac conduction, and the third describes artificial pacemakers.

Two loose cards are provided. One gives the schemes for interpretation of the electrocardiogram and the other a useful table of drug dosages on one side and normal standards of electrocardiograms on the other.

This book would be of most value on an intensive care ward for instruction and reference rather than on a library shelf, but I would sound a word of warning that those using it should be careful to treat the patient and not only the electrocardiogram! There are short notes about the treatment of the various dysrhythmias but there is little discussion about the best treatment to be used in different circumstances—for example one would use D.C. conversion immediately in a sick infant with supraventricular tachycardia but an older child with a less prolonged attack may respond satisfactorily to digoxin.

OLIVE SCOTT

Shorter notice


This short and informative book derived most of its good features from the fact that it has been written by one, well informed author. It contrasts happily with the turgid repetition found in many recent books on urinary tract infection which are products of conference proceedings. There is a stimulating mixture of history, good, clinical sense, and new research findings.

Aspects of childhood urinary tract infection are well reviewed although there is little information about the technicalities of urine collection, investigation of the urinary tract, and detailed treatment are more applicable to adults; this limits its usefulness for paediatricians. Nevertheless, anyone really interested in urinary tract infection will enjoy this book, and even those who think they know the subject well will find something new and fresh to consider.