multi-author text written and edited by 9 well-known members of what may perhaps be called the French school. It is an updated English translation of the French edition which was first published in 1978. The text is essentially clinical with a fairly brief consideration of physiological principles and technicalities of hormone measurement. The chapters cover growth, the major endocrine glands, calcium metabolism, diabetes, hypoglycaemia, obesity, fetal and neonatal endocrinology, the APUD system, and general principles of endocrine physiology. Each chapter is widely referenced, with a bias towards the French literature, up to and in a few cases beyond 1978. SI units are not used.

The wide clinical experience and knowledge of the authors is clearly reflected and the general paediatrician seeking sound advice on endocrine problems will be well served. The lack of that element of eccentricity in medical practice of which the English always suspect the French is more than counter-balanced by the highly individual translation which is full of minor errors, direct translations of French idiom, and more or less pleasing neologisms (I particularly liked 'impubism' for the lack of puberty).

This is a good, well-produced book but in view of the delayed publication in English, the linguistic errors, and the breath-taking price the general paediatrician may prefer to use a library copy and take out a mortgage in anticipation of the second edition.

N D Barnes


Professor Rutter undertook this ambitious venture during the tenure of a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioural Sciences, Stanford, USA. The object was to achieve a unifying approach to psychiatry from a developmental perspective and the contributors, all eminent workers from both the UK and the USA, span a range of disciplines.

There are five main sections (1) influences on development, (2) body functioning, (3) cognition, (4) social and emotional development, and (5) theories and approaches, each of which contains several reviews of interlinked topics all with detailed, up-to-date references. The result is a large, handsomely produced volume with a unified style of presentation.

This book is timely, and probably unique, as a source-book for teachers and researchers in the fields of developmental psychology and child psychiatry. However, it hardly succeeds in its stated aim of providing a critical appraisal of aspects of development relevant to an understanding of psychiatric disorders; the focus is too narrowly on early childhood for the general psychiatrist and many of the specialist writers seem confined within a particular phase or aspect of development. The clinician, including the paediatrician, will not readily find help with the formulation of ideas about aetiology, planning appropriate treatment, or (what might have been expected to emerge) assessing prognosis.

There are several excellent monographs, for example Robert Hinde's survey of 'Family influences'. This chapter has some profound 'do's' and 'don'ts' for the investigator on the importance of supplementing large-scale surveys with case histories and the need to 'be aware of the seductive appeal of variables that are easy to measure, and pursue rather those likely to be meaningful in the context'. I enjoyed the lively account of 'Genetics and mental development' by James Shields although the assimilation of part of it was difficult.

Play as an aspect of social development is summarised usefully by Lina Rosenblatt, and this information is not readily available elsewhere in accessible form. Michael Rutter makes several contributions to 'Social and emotional development' providing an outstanding account of 'Attachment and the development of social relationships'. However, the omission of an authoritative contribution on the psychoanalytic viewpoint in a book such as this was an unfortunate error of judgement.

The idea behind this publication is excellent, but a second edition would be enhanced by a more appropriate title and an editorial summary at the end of each section. Meanwhile this is a recommended addition to departmental libraries.

Fred H Stone

Shorter notices


This reprinted edition of the British Medical Bulletin contains 15 essays on the control of growth with particular reference to humans, but taking a wide biological rather than a restricted clinical viewpoint. In general the essays are concise, authoritative, and well referenced and this collection will be valuable as a guide to the wider world of knowledge on this subject which is of fundamental interest to paediatricians.


The neonatal house officer's main concerns are intensive care procedures, neonatal resuscitation, respiratory problems, oxygen therapy, ventilator settings and blood gases, nutrition fluid and electrolyte balance, jaundice, infections, drug dosages, and normal blood values.

This little book covers the ground simply and well and contains useful diagrams. It would be a practical and useful companion for that lonely time just before seeking more experienced help.