injury, and intracranial haemorrhage, metabolic encephalopathies, disorders of the motor system, and the effects of drugs on the developing nervous system. The general format and text in each part is well structured with chapters dealing with various aspects of the subject. For example, the part on hypoxic-ischaemic brain injury and intracranial haemorrhage has chapters on biochemical and physiological disorders relevant to the mechanism of brain injury, neuropathology, and clinical aspects, and various types of intracranial haemorrhage including subdural, subarachnoid, intracerebellar, and periventricular and intraventricular haemorrhage. This approach gives an unusual breadth and freshness as the author brings together a wealth of knowledge, which contributes to a better understanding, recognition, treatment, and prevention of neurological diseases in the newborn baby. Areas for future research are mentioned, and at the end of each chapter there is an extensive list of pertinent and up-to-date references to books for further reading.

Various diagrams, tables, and photographs have extensive explanatory footnotes because some of the material has been taken from articles published in journals and monographs which may not be familiar to paediatricians. The quality of the diagrams and photographs is of a high standard which enhances the lucid presentation of information in each chapter. There is liberal use of headings and this together with the index makes it easy to refer to specific topics, since this book is not a basic clinical text.

Much emphasis is given to the application of computed tomography in the diagnosis of neurological conditions in the newborn baby, and there are photographs of computed tomography scans to illustrate the types of brain lesions that can be diagnosed. The author has also included information about brain imaging by ultrasound for diagnosing intraventricular and germinal layer haemorrhages, and about brain-stem auditory evoked response which may be more extensively used in the future to diagnose sensorineural deafness in early infancy.

Although this is an expensive book, perhaps justifiably so since it is attractively presented on good quality paper with clear printing, it is one that paediatricians concerned in the care of the newborn and their follow-up, as well as paediatricians with an interest in neurology, can repeatedly turn to with confidence. Professor Volpe is to be congratulated on his achievement.

S W D'Souza

Shorter Notice


The honest paediatrician will admit that he often has difficulty in interpreting what he sees through the otoscope although he uses it a great deal. Sessions examining eardrums through the operating microscope with an ENT colleague may be the best way to learn. This expensive book, with 171 colour illustrations taken in a special photographic technique, is an alternative although some of the conditions illustrated are not relevant to paediatrics.

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British Paediatric Association

Annual meetings
1983 12–16 April York University
1984 10–14 April York University
1985 16–20 April York University
1986 15–19 April York University