

crude data. I particularly appreciated the chapter by N R C Robertson on developments in neonatal paediatric practice which seemed to review an astonishing amount of information within the scope of 38 pages. No chapter falls below the standard which earlier volumes have led us to expect.

A special mention should be given to the chapters on chronic diarrhoeal disease in older children by Anne Ferguson, current developments of chronic liver disease by Alex P Mowat, and advances in paediatric cardiology by Olive Scott, for their educational value to the general paediatrician.

The very best review articles tend to be those which least resemble a catalogue of disorders and thereby are most selective of those aspects of the subject in which the most important advances have been made, or seem likely to be made. Perhaps the most catalogue-like chapter is that on chronic central nervous system disease in childhood.

This book is well produced and in most instances the references are remarkably up to date; the uniform style of editing makes the volume easy to read without applying constraints to the writers. In his preface David Hull states that with each new edition the editor has to ask the question 'is there still a need for this type of view'. The answer is undoubtedly yes, given such a felicitous choice of topics and authors and such a high standard of editing. All paediatricians would benefit from reading this book and none would be disappointed.

J SYME

Sexually Abused Children and their Families. Edited by P P Mrazek and C H Kempe. (Pp. 271 incl. index; illustrated + tables. £12.50 (\$25.00) hardback.) Pergamon: Oxford. 1981.

At an absolute minimum 3 per thousand children in the UK have been sexually abused at some time in their childhood; this was the conclusion drawn by Mrazek, Lynch, and Bentovim from a survey they conducted by questionnaire and which they report in chapter 4 of this book.

Despite this, well over two-thirds of the 143 British paediatricians replying to the questionnaire had never seen a case; the authors suggest that there is a denial and avoidance of child sexual abuse similar to the attitudes of professionals towards physical abuse 20 years ago.

It seems that those of us who have a responsibility for child care have a lot to learn about the sexual abuse of children and this book is a good place to begin. There are contributions on various aspects of the problem by 18 authors, most of them colleagues of the editors in Denver, Colorado, and the subject matter, which is based mainly on American experience and practice, is arranged in five parts: recognition, the law, psychodynamics, treatment, and prognosis. The sections on the British survey and on the medical management are perhaps the most helpful for British paediatricians. Because most of the contributors are American psychiatrists and social workers the style and language will be difficult for British medical readers to understand. However, with a little effort it should be possible to grasp the meaning of such phrases as 'family disequalizer' and 'spouse subsystem'.

Any book on child abuse with Henry Kempe's name on the cover should be worth reading and this one is no exception.

A D M JACKSON

The Sick Newborn Baby. By C J H Kelnar and D Harvey. (Pp. 351 including index; illustrated + tables. £8.50 paperback.) Ballière Tindall: London. 1981.

This was written by a senior registrar and a senior lecturer in paediatrics and they have tried to provide more than just an account of the care of normal babies without creating a textbook of neonatal intensive care. It was meant for junior medical staff as well as nurses and midwives taking advanced diplomas, and in general it fulfils its intentions.

The opening chapters discuss the challenge of perinatal care and prenatal influences on the baby, and are followed by chapters on resuscitation and care of

normal babies. There is a series of chapters on particular problem areas—such as low birthweight babies, respiratory difficulties, nutrition, congenital malformations, birth trauma, jaundice, bleeding, neurological problems, and infection. Short chapters on the large-for-dates baby, the problems of coping with stillbirth, neonatal death, deformity, and handicap, and on perinatal care in developing countries complete the main text. Chapters are followed by suggestions for further reading and the appendix includes some normal values, standard drug doses, a list of addresses of well-known paediatric societies and associations, and two methods for assessing gestational age.

The book will help a junior paediatrician in a district general hospital to establish a baby on a ventilator and sustain it at least until the flying squad team arrives, but perhaps a too detailed account of intravenous feeding and the insertion of a central venous line is given. On the other hand, tolazoline, a potentially hazardous drug, is mentioned in one sentence which gives precise dosage but does not mention side effects.

This fits into a doctor's white coat pocket and contains many diagrams, graphs, tables, and black and white photographs, most of which show what they are supposed to show.

D G MMS

Shorter notice

MCQ's in Paediatrics. By W S Uttley. (Pp. 168; £3.95 paperback.) Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh. 1982.

The booklet contains about 350 multiple choice questions of the popular 'determinant response' format in which a common stem is followed by 5 independent true/false items. The questions are grouped into 19 subject sections each of which corresponds to a section of Forfar and Arnel's *Textbook of paediatrics*. The answers are printed on the reverse side of the page on which the questions are posed, which makes for easy use as well as easy cheating.