

the gastrointestinal tract and to outline some current trends for future research.

Volume 1 discusses physiological and biochemical processes concerned with intrauterine nutrition and growth in relation to morphological and functional development of the gastrointestinal tract. Various contributions encompass overall intrauterine development, as well as chapters on development of sucking and swallowing, gastric function, bowel motility, exocrine pancreatic function, the enterohepatic circulation, immunological defences, and the effects of human milk and other formulae upon their maturation. Also considered are nutritional requirements in early life, aspects of nutrition with breast milk, proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, electrolytes, and trace elements. Particularly good contributions concern the oral lipases and lipid digestion in newborns as well as polyunsaturated fatty acid metabolism, prostaglandins, and

thromboxane in perinatal medicine; the two last chapters by Zvi Friedman have more than 600 references. It is disappointing that space could not have been found for the recent work on gastrointestinal hormone release in newborns that is proving so fascinating.

Volume 2 deals with the adverse effects of current nutritional methods and the special requirements of infants with various gastrointestinal disorders, including the extra nutritional demands imposed by surgery in early life. Some sections tend to be mundane and contain little that cannot readily be found in existing reviews or monographs; this is perhaps more true of the chapters concerned specifically with gastrointestinal disorders in infancy. Nevertheless, the volume contains clear and comprehensive reviews on a broad range of other topics—such as hepatic complications of parenteral nutrition, cows' milk allergy, and the relation-

ship of malnutrition to digestive and absorptive function in infants and its effects on immunological development.

Many may appreciate the way in which the contents of some chapters tend to overlap those of others. Indeed the two volumes are intended to be read in parallel, one complementing the other as the work of the neonatologist or paediatric surgeon does that of the developmental biologist.

The books are well produced and clearly and appropriately illustrated, although the few photomicrographs of jejunal histology could have been improved. These volumes should be an automatic choice for the libraries of larger institutions which are for newborns or infants and for various university departments. The cost will limit individual purchases although at the best of less than a farthing a page it is remarkably good value.

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Shorter notices

Current Pediatric Therapy 10, tenth edition. Edited by S S Gellis and B M Kagan. (Pp. 776 including index; tables. £39.25 hardback.) Saunders: Eastbourne. 1982.

This has the same format as the previous volumes. More than 300 authors have contributed brief sections to create a comprehensive catalogue of disorders which are grouped together in 24 sections (most of them based on a body system). References to the source of the information are not given. Ease of use is ensured by the long and detailed index.

Evaluation of transcutaneous oxygen monitors. Health Equipment Information No 97. (Pp. 35; illustrated + tables. £3.00 paperback.) DHSS: London. 1981.

A comparison of five transcutaneous oxygen monitors, including technical assessment and comments from hospital users. The report is free to those working in the NHS and may be obtained from the health authority administrator. Although this is a most valuable compilation for those about to buy the equipment something closer to the *Which?* format would have made the comparative information easier to assimilate.

Handbook of Behavioral Pediatrics. By R W Block and F Rash. (Pp. 256; illustrated + tables. £10.75 paperback.) Year Book Medical Publishers: Chicago. 1981.

This small pocket book contains a series of brief sections giving sensible guidance on the management of common behavioural problems. Each section is supplemented by a few references for further reading. The UK price for such a small booklet seems exorbitant.

Postoperative Pediatric Uroradiology. By R L Lebowitz. (Pp. 207 incl. index; illustrated. £30.80 hardback.) Prentice Hall: Hemel Hempstead. 1982.

This book is a concise and practical account of operations on the child's urinary tract, their complications, and postoperative radiological management and findings using intravenous urography in particular. Its reference and text are clinically based so that it serves uniquely as reading or reference for paediatricians, paediatric surgeons, and radiologists who need to follow the results of surgery in urinary tract infection, neurogenic bladders, and congenital abnormalities.

Paediatric Handbook. Edited by D C Geddiss. (Pp. 159 incl. index; illustrated + tables. £5.50 paperback.) Heinemann Medical: London. 1982.

This is not intended to be a textbook; it is a practical guide, mainly for junior hospital doctors, emphasising management of the acute paediatric problems once the diagnosis is made. There is a useful brief chapter on poisoning, and the inclusion of growth charts and a short guide to developmental assessment is welcome. It is well indexed and includes a comprehensive pharmacopoeia.

Paediatric Urology, second edition. Edited by D Innes Williams and J H Johnston. (Pp. 564 incl. index; illustrated + tables. £45.00 hardback.) Butterworth: London. 1982.

The founder-editor has co-operated with J H Johnston to produce this long overdue edition of a splendid book; the presentation and organisation of subjects is as strong as in the first edition. This has been enhanced by the contribution of a number of specialists in allied subjects to give fuller coverage of the medical, pathological, and radiological aspects. Paediatricians should advise their hospital libraries to buy a copy.