much more effectively if they have some understanding of each others' work. With this in mind Dr Woods has written a straightforward account of the causes and medical management of handicap with our colleagues in the educational and social services chiefly in mind.

The author sensibly deals mainly with the common varieties of mental, physical and sensory handicap, and rarer entities are mentioned only in passing. The educational implications of each condition are clearly explained and many are illustrated by examples from the author's practice. Perhaps the role of the parent in the care of the handicapped child might have received more stress, but it is difficult to include everything in a book which is deliberately concise. The style makes for pleasant reading and is refreshingly free from medical jargon.

Dr Woods' down to earth approach and her wealth of experience enables her to write a book which may be confidently recommended to our colleagues in these other professions. Paediatricians in training will also find much accumulated wisdom as well as an excellent summary of good practice in the medical care of children with handicapping disorders.

J R MOORE

Congenital Deformities of the Spine. By R B Winter. Pp 343: \$70.00 hardback. New York: Thieme-Stratton, 1983.

This monograph represents a retrospective survey of over 1000 cases of congenital deformity of the spine treated by one centre. While adequately covering the diagnosis and some of the available methods of treatment, the text is purely descriptive and it is a pity that such an enormous clinical experience has not been converted into a management philosophy, which is so much needed with these very complex deformities.

With historical surveys the reader finds out very clearly what can be done, but what should be done is not necessarily the same. Non-operative treatment may be important for the 25% of cases that show a mild progression potential not dissimilar to the idiopathic deformity, but the value of any form of non-operative treatment for any type of deformity has never been subjected to a controlled trial and recent reports indicate that curve deterioration well into the third decade is the rule rather than the exception. This is hardly surprising if the vertebral epiphyses

do not fuse until the 25th year. The non-operative treatment chapter focusses on the old-fashioned Milwaukee brace and there is no mention of modern casting methods, while too much emphasis is placed on the posterior fusion for the progressive curve. While certainly of value for the 25% of cases of mild progression potential, it is contra-indicated in those with severe progression potential as the posterior tethering strut favours appreciable rotational progression. For the severe rigid curves, multiple anterior and posterior operations may be necessary, but I would like to have seen more emphasis on the wedge resection of the vertebral column performed in two stages, firstly anterior and secondly posterior, pioneered by Leatherman, who certainly has the world's greatest experience. Accounts of operative procedures with their attendant illustrations are excellent and the text is well set out but I would like to have seen more of an 'in depth' philosophical approach in return for the author's 6 months' sabbatical leave.

ROBERT A DICKSON

Children with Brain Dysfunction. Neurology, Cognition, Language and Behaviour. By I Rapkin. Pp 284: \$42.16 hardback. New York: Raven Press, 1982.

This book aims to explain central nervous dysfunction in terms of up to date information on how the brain works. Although short, the book provides a feast of information based on 681 references. There is a valuable glossary of those neurological terms that everyone assumes you know—but may not.

Dr Rapin begins with a review of the organisation and fine structure of the mature brain. A chapter attempting to define brain dysfunction and introducing the major types is followed by one on epilepsy. The central hundred pages of the book are a systematic discussion of the common types of long term dysfunction, including some genetic and degenerative disorders. There are chapters on motor and sensory dysfunction and disorders of attention, learning, and behaviour. In these she skilfully blends available knowledge of neuroanatomy and pathophysiology with insights gained from animal studies and neurological disease in adults and children, in order to increase our understanding of how normal function is disturbed. In chapters on language and

cognitive disorders, the more tentative aetiological background is frankly acknowledged and Dr Rapin sensibly bases her discussion on a helpful functional classification of the main varieties of learning and communication disorder. She introduces us to a number of the increasingly discriminating test instruments on which this is based. The book ends with chapters on investigation and management which, like the chapter on epilepsy, offer a rather brief summary that is less clearly related to knowledge of brain function than the rest of the book.

Paediatricians will find much of value in this monograph as a background to their clinical practice and teaching. As I hope, there will be future editions, greater stress on the function of the developing brain would make a good book even better.

J R MOORE

Adolescent Medicine. Edited by Hofmann. Pp 550: \$35.00 hardback. California: Addison-Wesley Medical Nursing Division, 1983.

Adolescent medicine has not emerged as a distinct discipline in the UK partly because of the family orientation of the primary health care system and partly because of the prevalent attitude that adolescence is the healthiest age of man. Dr Hoffman's forward to this multi-authored textbook counters the latter with a catalogue of organic and behavioural health problems facing the 10–21 year age group—a list increasingly dominated by sexual experimentation, drug and alcohol consumption, inexperienced automobile (motorcycle) driving, and concern about long term unemployment.

This textbook is aimed at primary care physicians working in the United States and it will appeal to only a limited readership in the UK. Those involved in the care of adolescents in schools, colleges, or within hospitals will gain from the better sections of this book which provide useful guidance on organising clinic facilities for adolescents (with and without parents), coping with sexual problems, drug abuse, behavioural difficulties, and chronic illness. Even healthy pursuits can generate concern and there is a useful chapter catering for the athlete.

A less satisfactory aspect of this book is the attempt to provide a systematic review of general medical disorders. The

would have been valuable if it had succeeded in emphasising aspects relevant to the adolescent, but the result is superficial and heavily dependent on lists that also lack perspective. I certainly cannot recommend *Adolescent medicine* as a source of useful information on issues such as the detection of early hypertension or the merits of scoliosis screening, or as a reference source for disorders usually managed outside the paediatric department. Those with a more than passing interest in adolescents may benefit from reading this book if only to assess the scope of the responsibilities they face.

D I JOHNSTON

Shorter notices

Oral Orthopaedics and Orthodontics for Cleft Lip and Palate. By N R E Robertson. Pp 144: £25 hardback. London: Pitman Books, 1983.

There is little new in this book which is none the less a useful description of an approach to treatment of clefts based on that of McNeil and Burston. The pre-surgical treatment is described in considerable detail; subsequent orthodontic care in less detail; and there are brief sections on aetiology, epidemiology, embryology, craniofacial growth, and surgical management. The text is well illustrated and easily read. The book will be of especial interest to orthodontists training for hospital practice.

Principles of Paediatric Fluid Therapy. Second edition. By R W Winters. Pp 190: £14.45 hardback. Massachusetts: Little Brown & Company, 1982.

This is a basic textbook concentrating on practical aspects of fluid therapy. Divided into 2 sections, the first explains in almost excessively simple steps the theoretical structure around which the subsequent section on therapy is based. This part discusses, principally, the fluid and electrolyte requirements in the treatment of dehydration. It is well illustrated throughout with well worked examples of everyday problems.

Drugs and Pregnancy: Human Teratogenesis and Related Problems. Edited by D F Hawkins. Pp 243: £10.00 hardback. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1983.

It is uncommon to find that a multiauthor text reporting conference proceedings is as readable as this book. Aspects of teratogenesis of importance to all who care for pregnant women and the newborn are presented with a welcome breath of realism and common sense. Directed towards practising clinicians the book covers all aspects of drug treatment in pregnancy and each chapter has a comprehensive reference list. This is an informative and practical book that may be highly recommended.

Infections in Children. Edited by R J Wedgwood, S D Davis, C G Ray, and V C Kelly. Pp 1623: \$81.00 hardback. Philadelphia and London: Harper and Row, 1983.

A comprehensive book from more than

100 North American contributors. The first half deals with susceptibility and resistance to infection, and the clinical presentations classified according to different systems eg gastrointestinal, urinary tract etc. The second half deals systematically with different groups of infecting agents ranging from the bacterial and viral to parasites and fungi.

Children's Fractures. Second edition. By M Rang. Pp 365: £38.00 hardback. Philadelphia: J B Lippincott, 1983.

The orthopaedic advice is excellent, and in addition there is advice, often lacking in orthopaedic text books, about 'good human relations' and the importance of spending time explaining to parents and children what is going to happen and trying to make sure that the advice they are given is understood. This book should be in every accident and emergency department that deals with children.

Basic Child Psychiatry. Fourth edition. By P Barker. Pp 320: £7.95 paperback. St Albans: Granada Publishing, 1983.

A basic but comprehensive work from an author with considerable understanding of children and families. The range of normal and deviant behaviour is sympathetically discussed and well illustrated with case histories. There are revised sections on infants and adolescents and the new multiaxial classification of disorders is explained. The text is enjoyable, easy to read, and very well referenced: an excellent book for both introduction and continued usage.