Book reviews

Child Development and Social Policy. The Life and Work of Jack Tizard. Edited by A D B Clarke and B Tizard. Pp 265: £7.95 hardback. Leicester: British Psychological Society, 1983.

When Jack Tizard and Neil O'Connor were appointed by Sir Aubrey Lewis in 1948 to the Medical Research Council's Social Psychiatry Unit to work on occupational aspects of mental handicap, it marked a milestone in the history of mental handicap, not only for the United Kingdom but for the whole world. At that time mental deficiency was a neglected field. The hospital contained huge agglomerations of abandoned people and staff tended to be 'apathetic or uncaring'. Although there have been notable improvements in the past 35 years, the struggle still goes on for a more humane life for the mentally handicapped.

This festschrift for the life and work of Jack Tizard will be of particular interest to paediatricians and to all who work in developmental paediatrics. Here they will have the opportunity of seeing in perspective how his pioneer work gradually brought about fundamental changes in attitude and practice. The editors, one of whom, his widow, has succeeded him at the Thomas Coram Research Unit, have paid him the greatest tribute by selecting 17 of his key papers sandwiched in between a very informative historical biography and his 'Dying of Cancer'. Each of the papers is preceded by a brief editorial summary which is a good guideline to the essential contents. Although they are in chronological order they fall conveniently into three categories: (1) the mentally handicapped, (2) environmental influences, and (3) services. They are as relevant today as when they were originally written. They are a monument of original thinking and creative research, and demonstrate the fundamental, universal principle that for all of us what matters is our potential abilities and their realisation, in contrast to the previous emphasis on what was missing. His 'discoveries' came as a shock to all concerned and although their impact was strongly resisted, his persistent sorties finally affected even government and administrators.

He established that the average IQ of

those certified feeble-minded was 70 and that many were not mentally retarded. He also showed that young adults with IQs in the 30-40 range could learn, retain, and apply knowledge to different situations. This work challenged 'almost all aspects of the then current practice and produced considerable turmoil in the field'. He fought against institutionalisation and segregation and showed how the mentally handicapped could be helped to learn normal work habits. While his work was of high scientific value and concerned with the psychology of learning processes, his deep conviction was to 'improve their lot'.

His three main contributions were in epidemiology, the evaluation of services, and the setting up of 'model' services. He will be particularly remembered for the Brookland's experiment which demonstrated that when handicapped children were removed from a large hospital and put into a residential nursery school they showed considerable improvement in their language and general behaviour.

While Tizard was best known to most of us for his work with the mentally handicapped this selection of his papers shows how wide ranging his interests and activities were—the Isle of Wight study, the long term sequelae of severe malnutrition in infancy, and the problem of physically handicapped adolescents and adults.

This is a fitting tribute to a great pioneer.

DAVID MORRIS

Echocardiography 1. Edited by S Hunter and R Hall. Pp 300: £22.00 hardback. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1982.

The editors of this compact and readable book point out in their introduction that they have edited material presented at an echocardiographic symposium held in 1980. With echocardiography being such a rapidly advancing subject both in technical developments and clinical applications it is inevitable that the 'state of the art' in 1980 will to some extent have been surpassed by 1982. However, presenting current thoughts is not the yardstick of a publication, and that point to me was quite apparent because this book

makes it very clear that a comprehensive understanding of the equipment and more so of disordered cardiac anatomy is essential, and these facts will never change. This book contains much essential information on the M mode or single crystal technique, which to some extent is now being overshadowed particularly in studying congenital heart disease. Yet a newcomer to the subject would clearly be well advised to ensure a very adequate understanding of the M mode technique to avoid interpretation errors, which can occur if one relies solely upon the easier to visualise real time technique. The book is not intended to cover all aspects of echocardiography and certainly an introductory and explanatory text for the beginner is not included. It is not, therefore, a book for the clinician wishing to know a little of echocardiography but is excellent reading for the doctor or technician who is advancing through the subject as a practical operator and user of the technique.

I do have some quibbles regarding the editorship. For a book intended to be compact, and readable (which it is), it contains two almost identical chapters on cardiac morphology which could well have been condensed as both contain similar illustrations! However, in general the chapters are beautifully illustrated by diagrams and copious echocardiographic photographs, overcoming to some extent the difficulty of presenting essentially moving recordings as single frames in a textbook. In addition, all the chapters are well referenced which makes the book an extremely useful companion for the senior echocardiographer.

GORDON WILLIAMS

Manual of Pediatric Parenteral Nutrition. Edited by J A Kerner, Jr. Pp 365: £33.25 paperback. New York and Chichester: John Wiley and Sons, 1983.

The past two decades have witnessed a phenomenal expansion in the knowledge of and experience with the use of parenteral nutrition. Numerous textbooks and at least two international journals are devoted entirely to the subject. This book on paediatric parenteral nutrition edited

by John Kerner is a welcome addition to the subject. The text is divided into five sections beginning with an assessment of the nutritional status and indications for parenteral nutrition. The section on specific requirements for individual nutrients is extensive and informative. The last three sections are devoted to practical aspects and include chapters on a wide spectrum of complications that may be encountered. Each chapter is concluded by brief notes on practical guidelines and a very comprehensive bibliography.

A glaring omission is a section on surgical aspects, including technical details of central venous catheter insertion. With the exception of this criticism I would highly recommend this book for all those even remotely associated with the provision of parenteral nutritional treatment in infancy and childhood.

LEWIS SPITZ

Shorter notices

A Colour Atlas of Clinical Genetics. Edited by M Baraitser and R M Winter. Pp 159: £35.00 hardback. London: Wolfe Medical Publications, 1983.

A collection of more than 500 clinical photographs of uncommon disorders together with explanatory legends ought to provide a useful book. Unfortunately the quality of the pictures and the way in which details described in the legend frequently cannot be seen in the photograph confuses and irritates the reader. At times it seems to be a case of poor selection of pictures, at others poor reproduction, and at others careless editing. The 54 distinguished medical

teachers and the photographic departments of the Hospital for Sick Children Great Ormond Street and Northwick Park Hospital, whose 'generous help' is acknowledged, deserve a better fate.

Pediatrics and Adolescent Endocrinology. Vol 12. Evaluation of Growth Hormone Secretion. Edited by Z Laron and O Butenandt. Pp 200: \$91.55 hardback. Basel and London: S Karger, 1983.

This book contains a series of papers given by workshop participants covering the physiology of growth hormone release and related physiological tests, commonly used pharmacological stimuli of growth hormone secretion, the clinical value of measurement of somatomedins, and some statistical aspects of growth hormone assays. The standard of papers is inevitably patchy and there is too great an attempt made to present a dogmatic 'party line' in a rapidly changing field. The book is a good but very expensive source of references—to be borrowed, not bought.

Centile Values of Birthweight for Gestational Age in Scottish Infants. By M Smalls and J F Forbes. Pp 18: £1.00 paperback. Scotland: 1983. Available from the Social Paediatric and Obstetric Research Unit, 64 Oakfield Avenue, Glasgow G12 8LS, Scotland.

This pamphlet provides birthweight for gestational age standards based on over 300 000 Scottish births, representing 95% of total births between 1975 and 1979. Tables and charts of centile values of birthweight, standardised for infant sex and previous pregnancies, are re-

ported for live singleton births from 28 to 42 weeks' gestation. This large sample is more representative than previous reports, and may well be considered the best for use in clinical and research applications throughout the United Kingdom, as well as in Scotland itself.

Clinics in Haematology. Vol 12. The Spleen. Edited by S M Lewis. Pp 608: £11.75 hardback. London and Philadelphia: W B Saunders, 1983.

This book is one of a long running monthly series aimed primarily at haematologists. It is a detailed multi-author review of the role of the spleen in health and disease, written by physicians, pathologists, and surgeons. Paediatricians will not find the contents particularly relevant except perhaps for one topic—the frequently discussed question of postsplenectomy sepsis—which is covered in some detail with a comprehensive bibliography.

Neonatal Kidney and Fluid Electrolyte. Edited by J Strauss and L Strauss. Pp 294: \$46 hardback. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1983.

There is a lot of interesting research and clinical information in this collection of papers on what is, and often what is not known about neonatal nephrology and electrolyte problems. This useful information could, however, be contained in a book a quarter of this size, and as a result perhaps half the price.