text it would be helpful to have intravenous fluid prescriptions described using such standard solutions as well as those containing specific electrolyte concentrations. The clinical examples are otherwise well chosen and contain pithy advice, 'do this only if you are prepared for a law suit'.

Unfortunately for such authors nearly all children's illnesses involve fluid and electrolyte derangement of some degree, and when considering specific clinical disorders it is difficult to avoid writing a textbook. This section is the most uneven: twice as much on asthma as diabetes and the paragraphs on chronic renal failure outline its pathophysiology but do not discuss the management of fluid and electrolytes in the uraemic child undergoing surgery. Nevertheless, this is an important book covering details squeezed out of comprehensive textbooks on paediatrics, and is gladly recommended to trainee paediatric physicians and surgeons.

TIM CHAMBERS

Shorter notices


This well-known textbook is a simple but comprehensive, practical guide to both neonatology and perinatology. It provides adequate background reading for medical students, nurses and obstetric and paediatric staff, giving descriptions of the management and assessment of both the normal and abnormal neonate, but does not deal in detail with neonatal intensive care.


The last edition of this book (1977) was acclaimed as a classic due to the clear exposition of the principles and practical aspects of treatment of the cerebral palsied child. This second edition has been extensively revised and new material has been added on the visually handicapped child, the clumsy child, and behaviour modification techniques. This is an essential 'bench book' for all physiotherapists who treat children with cerebral palsy. Paediatricians too would be much the wiser in their management of cerebral palsy after reading it.


The theme is that the child learns through play and this book, written by a psychologist, aims at showing how toys and play can be used to encourage a handicapped child's development in the pre-school years. There is extensive coverage of the use of toys appropriate to a variety of handicaps, including children who are visually or physically handicapped. There is much of value in this book for both parents and professionals, and for anyone who has to care for a handicapped child.


This is a highly specialised handbook and review of the application of gas chromatography—mass spectrometry to the characterisation of the organic acidurias. Analytical principles and methods are described in detail and illustrated extensively with chromatographic and mass spectral data. Separate sections are devoted to the abnormal biochemistry, laboratory diagnosis, and brief clinical description of individual conditions. It is a scholarly work, exhaustively referenced, but for consultation rather than general reading.


Twenty-three authors outline the current position in respect of surgical correction of many deformities. Discussion of the papers is included at the end of the chapters. The main content relates to cosmetic surgery of malformations, particularly in respect of the adolescent age group. The book will be of interest to surgeons working in this field, but it has limitations as a reference book for those working in general paediatrics.


The American authors of this revised edition have produced a book which is both easy to read and informative. Each of the 12 chapters covers a particular clinical problem such as 'Abnormal growth' and throughout the book there are appendices containing helpful information, including outlines of investigations and their interpretation. American terminology and over use of abbreviations at times spoil an otherwise excellent review of paediatric endocrine problems.