

paediatricians whose clinical acumen it will undoubtedly improve, as well as providing a refresher course in disease of the upper respiratory tract.

JOHN A DAVIS

**Practical Neonatal Respiratory Care.** Edited by R L Schreiner and J A Kisling. Pp 469: \$52.08 hardback. New York: Raven Press, 1982.

This multiauthor textbook, written mainly by the staff of the Indianapolis department, covers the differential diagnosis and management of neonatal lung disease. After introductory chapters on cardiopulmonary physiology there are excellent and practical chapters on resuscitation at birth, hyaline membrane disease, pneumothorax and other disorders of air dissection, surgical problems, congenital heart disease, and neonatal apnoea. I particularly liked the practical approach to resuscitation and the emphasis on history taking in infants with respiratory disease. The chapter on radiology benefits from the excellent quality of reproduction of the x-rays.

There is comparatively little on aspiration syndromes and pneumonia, though the prevention of lung infection in ventilated infants and the problems of differentiating early onset group B streptococcal disease are adequately covered, if slightly difficult to find in the text. The practicalities of managing severe hypoxaemia in these illnesses is to some extent covered in the one really disappointing and confusing chapter in the book, that on persistent foetal circulation (PFC). In that chapter it is not clear precisely which groups of babies they are discussing—is it just infants with isolated PFC, or are they also describing infants with neonatal lung disease who have severe secondary pulmonary hypertension? The only thing that was clear from the chapter was that PFC is much more common in Indianapolis than in Britain; is there a message there?

The second part of the book deals with the general medical management of infants in respiratory failure; blood gas analysis and monitoring; and the techniques and equipment used in ventilatory support. As in the first part of the book, the chapters are all clear and straight-

forward. There are only two problems: one is that much of it is written for the respiratory therapist—a subgenus of paramedic, that does not exist in Britain—with the result that the chapters on oxygen therapy and ventilators in particular contain far too much detail for the British market on the insides of bag and mask units, nebulisers, and ventilators; the other is that not only is there too much of this detail, but it does not deal with ventilators or apparatus widely used in Britain, such as that manufactured by British Oxygen, Vickers, and Dräger.

Nevertheless, this is a useful book, clearly written by people who are obviously still in at the sharp end of neonatal respiratory care. Why the babies are ill, and what to do with them is clearly and concisely laid out, well referenced, and easy to find from the index. The book could, with advantage, be on the bookshelf of all neonatal intensive care units and be read and kept for reference by all paediatricians working in these.

N R C ROBERTON

**Breast-feeding in Practice.** By E Helsing and F Savage King. Pp 271: £5.95 paperback. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1982.

This is the first edition of a manual for health workers in both developed and developing countries. It aims at filling the gap left by medical textbooks in the practice of breast feeding. The strength of the book lies in the way the authors (a nutritionist and a senior lecturer in tropical child health) look at the common difficulties encountered in breast feeding and suggest how women can be advised in a logical, practical way. There is enough basic scientific information on lactation for rational explanations to be given.

There is a need for books like this—breast feeding is not instinctive to all women, and as an increasing number of women in western industrialised countries attempt to breast feed it is evident that much of the knowledge of breast feeding in our society has been lost during the era of bottle feeding.

The manual also offers suggestions on weaning, with mention of different basic foods used by women in various countries.

This information will give some insight to workers in the UK advising women from ethnic minority groups. This paperback has a good index, a bibliography, useful addresses, and can be used as a reference work as well as a practical manual for primary health workers. It is rather long (271 pages), and further editions might be better split into one manual for Western Europe, and the other for developing countries.

The book is readable and accurate. I would question whether it is not safer to give plain boiled water to infants with diarrhoea rather than risk inaccuracies in the making up of salt, sugar, and water solutions. I would however recommend it to all those interested in helping more women to feed their babies successfully.

JANE WYNE

**Paediatric Ophthalmology.** Edited by J François and M Maione. Pp 473: £19.00 hardback. Chichester: John Wiley, 1982.

This publication consists of 75 papers presented at the 2nd meeting of the International Society for Paediatric Ophthalmology held in Italy in 1979. There are groups of papers devoted to ophthalmic injuries, including non-accidental trauma, inherited metabolic disorders, visual assessment, oculomotor disorders, and amblyopia. The papers, in uniformly good English, are very well printed and presented, with clear figures, many colour illustrations, and adequate references; most are either reviews of topical subjects or clinical studies, which supplement and confirm previously published work by other authors.

**CT and Myelography of the Spine and Cord.** By H Pettersson and D C F Harwood Nash. Pp 119: £23.00 hardback. Berlin: Springer, 1981.

The technique of CT metrizamide myelography is described. High spatial resolution using target reconstruction computer techniques is obtained so that individual nerve roots and other fine details are easily seen. Normal appearances of the spinal cord and illustrations of most categories of disease are well displayed in this book.