was detected in stools by electron microscopy, and in 1973 the rotavirus was visualised in duodenal specimens taken from children with gastroenteritis and later was found in diarrhoeal stools. The enormous growth in knowledge since then of these and other viruses of the gastrointestinal tract has now been brought together for the first time in one comprehensive textbook by David Tyrrell and Albert Kapikian. This is a very valuable single-source book for anyone interested in aetiology, epidemiology, and physiology of viral gastroenteritis. It gives an account of modern diagnostic techniques for such viruses and a comprehensive list of all viruses currently known. It also gives a helpful chapter reviewing acute diarrhoeal disease caused by bacteria, written by Bradley Sack. The book is right up to date with an excellent last chapter containing the latest information on viral gastroenteritis. This informs us that the efficient propagation of human rotavirus has now been achieved, representing a major breakthrough in rotavirus research. There are also important chapters on gastrointestinal viruses in animals, as collaboration between those engaged in human and veterinary medicine in this field has been remarkably fruitful.

The book is clearly and lucidly written, with excellent illustrations. It is highly recommended to clinicians interested in this area as well as to virologists and research workers. It should be on the shelves of all hospital libraries.

J A WALKER SMITH

Pediatric Psychology. An Introduction for Pediatricians and Psychologists. By John V Lavigne and William J Burns. Pp. 400: £22.80 hardback. New York: Grune & Stratton, 1981.

There is a need to help paediatricians and others who work professionally in paediatric clinics and wards to understand and manage better the psychiatric problems which are so prevalent in the children treated there. This large book written by two American clinical psychologists has this purpose. Unfortunately in the view of the reviewer it is unlikely to succeed in helping, and may even put off those who are interested, because of what it has to say and the way in which it is written. It begins with an outline of three different theoretical approaches to childhood behaviour problems essentially derived from the work of Piaget, Freud, and Skinner. This is a particularly poor

section full of jargon and almost incomprehensible to one who has spent a quarter of a century studying these schools of thought. The list of references at the end of the chapter is particularly frustrating because it is not in alphabetical order and does not even quote B F Skinner who is mentioned in the text!

The next section is concerned with assessment. Although it contains some useful information about interviewing children and their families, there is so much that is irrelevant to straightforward clinical assessment that the reader is bewildered. A rather inadequate chapter on mental handicap follows. Then comes a section on so-called organic brain disorders, although it is mostly concerned with hyperactivity, tics, and the doubtful subject of minimal brain dysfunction. Much of the discussion seems incredibly old fashioned by today's standards. One had imagined that many of the ideas expressed were long dead and buried. But apparently this is not the case. One could go on taking each chapter of the book in turn making similar criticisms. It is difficult to see what use a book like this could possibly serve.

IAN BERG

Pre-school to School: a Behavioural Study. By N Richman, J Stevenson, and P J Graham. Pp. 228: £13.50 hardback. London: Academic Press, 1982.

This is a valuable book from several points of view. It is not only thus because of the reliable and extensive way in which it studies the behaviour of young children, but is of considerable importance because it finds evidence which challenges many long held beliefs and attitudes within the catering professions about disturbance in the early years.

Its starting point is a study of a total population of three year olds. Two hundred of the 700 children in the first part of the study are then followed at age 4 and 8. One hundred of these are identified as disturbed in the original study and 100 are controls. The children and their families are extensively studied at each stage using well-established screening, testing, and interviewing techniques.

The book, though filled with many facts, figures, and statistics, is enjoyable to read, thanks partly to the expedient of illustrating many points with very short synopses of the children and their families. In this way all the contents help

to extend one's knowledge of children at these ages and would be valuable to any professional working with children. What is especially useful, because it is usually lacking in studies on behaviour, is that the study is particularly designed so that longitudinal aspects can be examined by looking at the continuity and discontinuity of problems and the factors relating to these.

The authors find a notable persistence of problems which conflicts with the reassuring stance taken by many professionals that pre-school children grow out of their difficulties.

The other value of the book is as a reference that can be turned to for many pertinent facts which have therapeutic relevance. The reader can look up the prevalence of particular behaviour in three year olds, the likely persistence of this, and what factors may affect it.

In short, this is an important book to which all professionals dealing with very young children should have access.

J C STURGE

Ultrasonography of Pediatric Surgical Disorders. By T G Canty, G R Leopold, and D A Wolf. Pp. 268: £32.80 hardback. New York: Grune & Stratton, 1982.

The rapid development of ultrasonography in paediatric surgical practice over the past decade is illustrated in this book. The content deals initially with a brief discussion of theory and techniques followed by some examples of the use of ultrasonography in prenatal diagnosis. The main part of the book is devoted to a series of sections which cover the gastrointestinal tract, the intra-abdominal organs, the genitourinary tract excluding scrotal abnormalities, and a few miscellaneous conditions in which ultrasound has been applied with some benefit.

There is one illustration of prenatal hydrocephalus but no further discussion or illustration of the value of ultrasonography in defining intracranial pathology postnatally. Intrathoracic and in particular cardiac applications for ultrasonography are not dealt with in this book. However, in the areas covered the text is clear and the illustrations are of a high quality. Clinicians will be helped in the interpretation of the new picture galleries produced with ultrasonography. This useful non-invasive investigation is proving of great value in paediatric practice.

The rapid evolution of the techniques