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 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

results in hypertrophic pyloric stenosis being cited as an example of a condition in which ultrasound might replace contrast studies, in the problematical case, but by the time the book had been published this had become the established pattern of practice in many centres. The book will be useful as reference for clinicians dealing with surgical conditions in infancy and childhood.

D G YOUNG

Laboratory Investigation of Fetal Disease. Edited by A J Barson. Pp. 504: £25.00 hardback. Bristol: Wright, 1981.

As Professor Davis says in his foreword to this book, there has been an accumulation of reliable information based on laboratory study about what the French charmingly call *la vie clandestine* of the foetus. Dr Barson, paediatric pathologist from Manchester, has collated this knowledge, with contributions from many experts in specialist fields, to put together an excellent book of great importance to everyone interested in perinatology. The book sensibly does not aim to be a detailed source of the practical minutiae of laboratory techniques; it is more a scientific and well balanced assessment of how far individual techniques have progressed, of what questions about foetal health the techniques can answer (or not answer), and of the limitations and dangers. Thus, while many perinatologists will know something about all the techniques mentioned and perhaps a lot about one such technique, all will appreciate an authoritative, well balanced description of what other techniques have to offer in 1981.

Dr Barson has chosen his contributors with care and edited carefully so that each contribution is dispassionate and not a trumpet blowing encomium for the contributor's own field. The scope of the book is best described by the sections. The first is 'Monitoring growth and distress', including radiology and foetal Po₂, heart monitoring, breathing movements, and encephalography, with hormone assay in maternal fluid. The second is 'Antenatal diagnosis of disease', with good chapters on the various techniques which peep into *la vie clandestine*. The third is 'Postnatal diagnosis of fetal disease,' concerned with infection, screening procedures, and an excellent chapter by the editor on the perinatal post mortem. The main criticism of the book

is that some of these techniques are so rapidly evolving that the forefront in 1981 is already a little out of date. For instance, there are few references more recent than 1979, and the screening test advocated for hypothyroidism is thyroid estimation, with thyroid stimulating hormone reserved for the lowest 2 to 3% of each day's specimens. None the less, this book will be essential reading for all scientists, research workers, and clinicians in the perinatal field. The author's intention 'that the book will provide a forum for the assessment of the diagnostic roles of various laboratory procedures so that medical centres currently expanding their perinatal services may benefit from the experience of others' is well fulfilled.

J W SCOPES

The Genetics of Neurological Disorders. By M Baraitser. Oxford Monographs on Medical Genetics No. 9. Pp. 516: £35.00 hardback. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1982.

This covers the genetics of neurological disorders and the manifestations of the major genetic disorders in childhood and adult life; it includes sections on migraine, cerebral palsy, learning disorders, and epilepsy. It does not attempt to cover visual and hearing disorders in a comprehensive way and chromosome abnormalities are also not included. The book is in a series on medical genetics and some of these topics will be included elsewhere in other volumes. The book is very successful indeed, combining a rigorous academic analysis of evidence for any genetic statement with clear concise English. Every condition has the appropriate references which produces a bibliography of over a hundred and thirty pages and in the short time that I have had the book this has proved invaluable. It is essential for all those concerned with the diagnosis and management of neurological disease in childhood and provides one of the clearest accounts of a group of conditions which often causes confusion.

The middle section of photographs is too small to be comprehensive and would not be used for identifying a dysmorphic syndrome and could therefore be usefully omitted. The section on the calculation of risks in muscular dystrophy contains some rather incomplete statements in the figures and one or two small misprints which make it quite difficult to follow,

although the inclusion of this section is a very good idea.

This book deserves a very warm reception. It is certainly worth £35.00 and it is to be hoped that the price will not prevent the book reaching all those who would benefit from having their own copy.

B G R NEVILLE

Shorter notices

Neuroblastoma. Clinical and Biological Manifestations. Edited by C Pochedly. Pp. 315: \$49.50 hardback. New York: Elsevier, 1982.

Neuroblastoma both retains a fascination and remains a major disappointment to paediatric oncologists. Our increased knowledge of this tumour is well illustrated in this comprehensive account of its clinical and biological manifestations. The limited sections on therapy reflect our lack of progress in its management. There is considerable repetition among chapters but all end with a useful reference list. This book will be a valuable aid to those in the field of childhood cancer.

Respiratory Illness in Children, second edition. By P D Phelan, L I Landau, and A Olinsky. Pp. 501: £35.00 hardback. Oxford: Blackwell, 1982.

A worthy successor to 'Williams and Phelan' has appeared. The seven year interval since the first edition has necessitated substantial changes but the clarity and depth of information, as well as the attractive presentation, should ensure continued popularity with clinicians. It is a little longer than its predecessor and three times as expensive.

Urinary Tract Infections in Children. By S. Hellerstein. Pp. 139: £11.75 paperback. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1982.

This clinically-orientated monograph offers a reasoned, comprehensive management regimen for most children with urinary tract infections. The book reflects a rather invasive approach and lacks sections on two important commonly encountered areas; the child with the abnormal urinary tract (other than vesicoureteric reflux), and the relation between incontinence and infection.