to offer the paediatrician brave enough to
read further than the title. Dr Stratton has
tried more or less successfully to draw
together neonatal neurology, obstetrics,
paediatrics, and developmental psychol-
ogy, through their common interest in the
normal and abnormal newborn. His aim is
to persuade researchers and practitioners
that it is futile and unproductive to attempt
to deal with any aspect of the newborn in
isolation. He also argues that the
characteristics of the newborn must be
considered in relation to both present and
future needs.

The book is divided into 4 sections the
first of which discusses behavioural and
neurological assessment of the newborn
with contributions from Drs Prechtl and
Amiel-Tison. The second section reviews
extensively the experimental and other
evidence of the capacity of the newborn to
perceive and to learn from his environ-
ment. A chapter on the development of the
nervous system and another on the
newborn as an individual are also included.
A third part reviews the evidence for
prenatal influences on the newborn, together with an account of obstetric practices in various cultures and of
neonatal intensive care in our own. The
final section contains a chapter on the
infant and the social world which to
a simple paediatrician consists mostly of
inpenetrable jargon—operant learning
represents a cross modal integration of
kinaesthetic interoceptive and extero-
ceptive modalities—after which Dr
Stratton wraps the subject up in a final
chapter. All in all a challenging read for
the ambitious paediatrician prepared to
step out from his own small world for a
while.

R W I COOKE

Annual Review of Birth Defects 1981:
Part A: Prenatal Diagnosis & Mechanisms
of Teratogenesis. Part B: Dysmorphology.
By W L Nyhan and Lyons Jones. Part A
Pp 232, Part B Pp 350: Part A £29.00,
Part B £43.00 hardback. New York:
Alan R Liss, 1982.

The Birth Defects series got off to a good
start reviewing birth defects in a detailed
and logical fashion, and the early books
(Volume 5, Number 1 to Volume 10,
Number 4) were an enormous con-
tribution, for they constituted an excellent
up to date source of information on
syndromes (to the almost complete
neglect of common single malformations).
Now, unless one owns or has access to
the entire set (over 100 volumes), single
volumes are of very little use. These 2 are
recent additions to the series, and comprise
either single case reports, small studies, or
brief reviews, and most of the papers cover
rarities. Part A is in 3 sections; 11 papers
on Mechanisms of Abnormal Morpho-
genesis (eg case report of congenital tick
borne relapsing fever with transplacental
transmission; mid-line facial defect as a
teratogenic effect of metronidazole;
calcium and neural tube defects); 10 papers
on Prenatal Diagnosis (including a good
short review of the effectiveness of
prenatal screening by Brock, and an
interesting report of 3 cases of fetal
oeida in trisomy 18); and 3 papers on
Perinatology (on the significance of
meconium staining of fluid obtained at
amniocentesis, the complications of
maternal terbutaline and ritodrine, and a
comparison of transporting babies 'in
uro' or after delivery). Part B is in two
sections—32 papers on Syndromes and 7
papers on Cytogenetics. The syndromes
covered vary from the rare but important,eg the Meckel syndrome, to the newly
described, such as the second recorded
case of the Pilotto syndrome.

The quality of the papers in both
volumes is patchy, though Part B in
particular does contain some very good
and interesting case reports. The books
are far too specialised, however, for the
average paediatrician without a very
special interest in dysmorphology. Single
volumes are not worth buying because
they merely constitute a somewhat
random assortment of papers, and only
libraries or individuals collecting the
series will want to purchase these books.

T J DAVID

Shorter notices
Core Textbook of Paediatrics, Second
Pp 542: £16-95 paperback. London:

This is an attempt to provide an intro-
duction to paediatrics for the under-
graduate, but it compares unfavourably
with the current British texts. The subject
balance and emphasis is strange; for
example 7 pages on chronic con-
stipation with unnecessary and speculative
detail, compared with a short paragraph
on minimal change nephrotic syndrome.

The plethora of useful lists may attract
the few, but many will be deterred by the
transatlantic differences; for example the
social services organisation in child abuse
and neglect, the availability of drugs and
vaccines, and the pattern of disease (which
has seen a Black Widow spider recently?

from the authors, 1982.

Each time I see a child with a sleep
disorder I experience a sense of fore-
boding. I have always taken seriously the
restless unsettled baby, knowing how
extensive the effects can be on the parent
and the family.

We all have our own empiric and
pragmatic ways of dealing with this
problem but I never feel very hopeful.
Now, from the Department of Psycho-
logical Medicine at the Hospital for
Children, Great Ormond St., comes this
manual. The authors are to be commended
on tackling this difficult problem so
realistically, in such depth, and for
providing a 'vade-mecum' for the clinician.
In less than 25 pages, including three
relevant case-histories, the subject is
comprehensively tackled and the guidance
lines should give us renewed confidence in
handling this difficult clinical situation.

Topics in Gastroenterology 10. By D Jewel
and W Selby. Pp 337: £20-00 hardback.
Oxford: Blackwell Scientific publications,
1982.

This book, based on the postgraduate
gastroenterology course held in Oxford
each year, is celebrating its tenth
anniversary. The contents are mainly
directed at adult physicians, but this year
there are four interesting chapters for the
paediatrician. These are on cows' milk
intolerance, hepatobiliary disorders in
infancy, neonatal necrotising enterocollitis,
and gastrointestinal bleeding in childhood.
Each one has been well written and
deserves a wider paediatric readership
than it would otherwise obtain in this
elegant publication.