
This volume is the proceedings of last year's 'Clear' symposium on low level lead exposure and children's health. Sections on the sources, toxicity, and neuropsychological effects of lead include work published elsewhere—for example Needleman's important tooth lead studies. The discussions are valuable and Professor Rutter's introduction and conclusions form excellent reviews of the subject. With the current political and scientific debate, the book should attract attention from paediatricians interested in this area of preventive medicine.


Two experienced psychologists have written a good account of behaviour methods for communicating with handicapped children and those who care for them. The book is divided, chapter by chapter, into an account of general principles and a mixture of examples and exercises suitable for intelligent, literate parents and care staff. Someone needs to write a cartoon version for the others, perhaps the majority. There is a useful bibliography.


All 6 chapters are in some way connected with the hypothesis that neural tube defects might be preventable by multivitamin supplements. Most of the material has already been published. More interesting are the authors' critical comments of one another's papers, sometimes accompanied by a rebuttal. The book neither provides the answer to whether vitamins are any use nor to whether the proposed MRC trial is a good way to find out, but careful reading might lead to a slightly better informed sort of ignorance.


The regular appearance of new editions since its first publication 30 years ago is itself a tribute to this classic. The book remains a compact and clearly written guide of value to all those concerned with children.


The 26 contributors from the USA provide a useful medium sized textbook. Its use for reference is enhanced by the clear presentation and comprehensive references at the end of each section.


Approximately 280 articles are summarised in about 400 words plus relevant tables or illustrations and are grouped together under the different systems. Nearly all the articles were originally published in American or British journals between March 1981 and February 1982.


This is an excellent photographic record of human development from conception until the end of organogenesis. Much use is made of microdissection, the scanning electron microscope, and surface histochemistry—all of which aid comprehension of these complex processes. The quality of the illustrations is extremely good and the explanatory text concise and easy to follow. This book would be very helpful used in conjunction with one of the standard embryology textbooks.