

Smith on individual syndromes, particularly on specific methods of diagnosis and differential diagnosis, though it does not contain the useful list of differential diagnosis by anomalies which is to be found in Smith's book.

Despite the good points of this book, you are more likely to diagnose a 'rare face' with Smith's book, which will continue to be the essential classic for all English speaking paediatricians.

G MCENERY

**Parenting Children with Disabilities. A Professional Source for Physicians and Guide for Parents.** Vol 4. Paediatric Habilitation Series. By P Muller Meizjo. Pp 216: Sfr 67 hardback. New York and Basel: Marcel Dekker, 1983.

This book, written by an American nurse who is the mother of a child with spina bifida, is addressed to parents of handicapped children and to professionals caring for them. The author covers the causes, mechanism, and management of emotional reactions likely to emerge in parents and caring professionals dealing with the handicapped child, and also offers some practical advice about management of medical problems. Some of this medical advice reflects North American bias, for example, we would probably consider long term indwelling bladder catheters before implant of an artificial bladder sphincter in a child with spina bifida. The book would be of no value to a parent seeking practical or financial advice in this country as reference is made to American agencies, and indeed it would have limited appeal to parents seeking general advice on emotional crises at various ages because quite an advanced 'reading age' is required to wade through its complex phraseology. The American orientation of the book limits its value to British professionals but I liked the concept of developmental phases in family life which can be distorted by the need to care for a handicapped child. The main interest of the book to me was the picture it gave of how much initiative may fall on the parent in the USA to seek and

make use of professional help, whereas in Britain, support services would, we hope, come into play virtually automatically. Also, it was interesting to read how financial provision for treatment could be a major additional burden for American families with handicapped children and happily this is greatly cushioned here. The chapter advising professionals and parents to learn to be advocates for the handicapped emphasises similar preoccupations on either side of the Atlantic.

R MACFAUL

**Heart Disease in Infants, Children, and Adolescents.** Third edition. Edited by F H Adams, G C Emmanouilides. Pp 795: £61.50 hardback. London: Williams and Wilkins, 1983.

This major textbook of paediatric cardiology first appeared in 1968, and the third edition, just published, is in general a very praiseworthy volume. The problems of producing any mammoth text such as this are undoubtedly large, and the editors are to be congratulated. They quote, on the front page, from Proverbs, chapter 11, verse 14, 'in an abundance of counsellors there is safety'. While there is undoubtedly truth in this saying, I think that some of the 'counsellors' give rather confusing counsel. The chapter on univentricular hearts, for instance, is excellent. It is lucid, readable, and contains the best and newest thinking on this complex group of lesions. In comparison, the chapter on malpositions of the heart reiterates the old confusing nomenclature which has for years baffled the students of paediatric cardiology—surely 'D' and 'L' transposition have outlived any usefulness they ever had.

Although most chapters cover fully the investigation and management of different clinical problems, the volume would surely have been improved by a chapter on history taking, clinical examination, and the integrated approach to the family of those children with congenital heart disease. The various diagnostic procedures are dealt with under the different cardiac lesions. The chapter on dysrhythmias is an excellent review of the problem in paediatric

practice, but vectorcardiography seems to play a much greater role than most non-American authors would give it. Cross sectional echocardiography is hailed in the introduction as a great new diagnostic tool, but the full value of the technique is not particularly well shown in the text; a problem perhaps born of recent rapid developments in ultrasonics and a long gestational period for the book.

The worst feature of the book is undoubtedly the index. Try to look up 'prostaglandin' or 'pacemaker' and you will find no direct reference, although both are well covered in individual chapters. Despite these criticisms, however, this is still a very useful book with some outstandingly good chapters. I like particularly the sections on the tetralogy of Fallot, the hypoplastic left heart, and arteriovenous fistulae.

One last comment should be made, there is an increasing non-American input into several chapters which is a major advance for an American text book. So many of the new techniques and advances in paediatric cardiology in the last decade have come from Europe, and it is good to see that at last the American literature is giving the European cardiological community its due.

STEWART HUNTER

## Shorter notice

**The Paediatric Chest: Radiological, Clinical, and Pathological Observations.** By A H Felman. Pp 563: \$56.00 hardback. Illinois: Charles C Thomas, 1983.

The author has assembled a comprehensive review of pulmonary problems in paediatrics. Clinical and radiological features, pathology, and a brief account of treatment are found in most sections; where appropriate, embryology is included. There is a good reference list at the end of each chapter. I found this a difficult book to read, but used as a source of reference for a particular problem it is of great help. Current and traditional thought on malformations and disease are well set out, and the radiographs are many and well reproduced. Although not a textbook in the true sense, this book has great value in the reference section of your library.