intragenically as a result of immunosuppressant drugs. Thus there are excellent chapters describing the immunodeficiency arising secondarily from these studies. In addition there are chapters on the impaired immune responses found in the newborn, old age, and after anaesthesia and a final chapter on the use and abuse of some common diagnostic immunological investigations in clinical immunology.

The interrelation between infection, immunodeficiency, and nutrition is so important that this book must be recommended to the general paediatrician in addition to the doctor with a special interest in clinical immunology.

R J LEVINSKY

Shorter notices


To anyone interested in the biochemistry of vitamin E this book will be essential reading with up to date reviews on antioxidants, free radical membranes, myopathy etc. For the neonatologist there is extensive coverage of the possible role of vitamin E in retrolental fibroplasia and intraventricular haemorrhage. For the more general paediatrician the book may be of less value, leaving unanswered such fundamental questions as the most appropriate methods of defining vitamin E deficiency or the most appropriate pharmaceutical preparation for treatment or prevention of deficiency.


The quality of the photographs is very high and even most of the radiographs show what they are supposed to. There is a reasonable balance between common and rare conditions and each of the 369 pictures is accompanied by a few lines of well selected information.

On the basis that we usually only recognise what we have previously seen, this book could be very profitably browsed through by all doctors and nurses caring for the newborn. It is highly recommended.


Resuscitation, fluid and electrolyte therapy, hypoglycaemia and hypocalcaemia, septicaemia, jaundice, respiratory distress syndrome, seizures, cardiac disease, feeding, and necrotising enterocolitis are dealt with in a practical, problem orientated manner.

Liberal use is made of diagrams, tables and flow charts and every few pages questions are set which encourage the reader to use parts of his brain other than merely his visual cortex.

The book is informative, rather comprehensive reading and can be recommended to anyone concerned with the practical management of neonatal disorders.


Two hundred photographs of 20 echocardiographic images illustrate the most common congenital heart lesions. There are line drawings to show the anatomic cuts of the images and a concise but perfectly adequate text. Strong points are in the introduction to normal anatomy and the section on transposition of the great arteries. Contrast echocardiograms are used to illustrate shunts. The suprasternal and apical ‘four chamber’ approaches are perhaps under used. Nevertheless the quality of illustration is high making this useful book and the best of its sort in the current literature.