Book reviews

Viral Diseases of the Fetus and Newborn. 2nd ed. (Vol 17 in series Major Problems in Clinical Pediatrics). By J B Hanshaw, J A Dudgeon, W C Marshall. Pp 308: £45.00 hardback. W B Saunders, 1985.

This is an excellent book written by acknowledged experts, and will I am sure be of enormous help to both paediatricians and obstetricians. It forms volume 17 in the series, *Major Problems in Clinical Pediatrics*, and complements a previous monograph in this series on *Bacterial Infections of the Newborn*.

There are eight chapters dealing with specific viral infections, with the two chapters on congenital rubella and cytomegalovirus infection accounting for almost half the book. Additional sections deal with the development of immune mechanisms in the newborn, methods of prevention and treatment, and the use of laboratory investigations. The bibliography at the end of each chapter is excellent with up to date references, many from 1983 and a few as recent as 1984.

Congenital rubella is or should be preventable and it was disappointing to read that after 11 years of immunisation in the UK (up to 1982) no appreciable reduction in cases had occurred. Although the findings from the USA seem on the surface much better, it will be interesting to discover eventually which of the two widely different programmes is the best.

This book will probably not enable one to make a diagnosis of a congenital viral infection if not already thought of, but it will give clear guidance as to appropriate investigations, their interpretation, and management. Obstetricians, particularly, will find the table on the laboratory diagnosis of postnatal rubella helpful, and I valued the advice on the correct management of genital herpes in pregnancy and varicella-zoster infection in mothers and infants. For all those (probably the majority of us) who are totally confused by the nomenclature and importance of hepatitis B infections, there is again a most clearly written chapter. The section on prevention deals not only with current schemes of immunisation but also with antiviral chemotherapy and it is perhaps in this field that major advances in treatment will occur which will necessitate a further revision in another five years or so.

At £45 this book is good value and will be a most useful addition to any neonatal library.

P J CONGDON

A Guide to the Psycho-Motor Development of the Child. By J Gassier. Pp 149: £9.95 paperback. Churchill Livingstone, 1984.

This book describes the psychomotor development of young children. After a brief chapter on parental feelings and attitudes during pregnancy, the major portion of the book is a description of all aspects—motor, sensory, cognitive, and emotional and social—of the development of children aged 0 to 3 years. The descriptions are at monthly intervals during the first year, then 15 months, 18 months, 2 years, and 3 years. The factual text is supplemented by brief case histories and some superb pictures. There are two useful summaries, one textual and the other in cartoon form; both are excellent.

The descriptions of development are also accompanied by advice, particularly aimed at the mother, about what she *should* do at certain stages to promote psychomotor development. I found some of this too directive. There is a leaning towards psychoanalytical interpretations of some aspects of emotional development and in a book of this size, insufficient space to devote to alternative interpretations of behaviour. Despite the warnings about over interpretation of children's pictures, an extremely full guide of debatable validity has been included. I feel it might be better to have omitted the interpretation and concentrated on the descriptions of development of drawing which are clear and well illustrated. Some statements need reference for verification, for example '... a recent survey in the USA has shown that children with behavioural problems are, in the majority of cases, the children of intellectual parents who are very demanding as regards the type of language the child produces and who are unwilling to play childish games which they (wrongly) believe to be too "simplistic"'. Other studies would not support this statement as a generalisation about children's behaviour problems.

With the above criticisms and reserva-

tions, I think this book gives a *beautifully illustrated* and clearly laid out guide to the development of young children, which will be of use to paramedical and medical staff learning about child development. The summaries give a particularly handy reference which complements existing books on this subject.

GILLIAN BARD

The Injured Child. Edited by B F Brooks. Pp 248: \$35.00 hardback. University of Texas Press, 1985.

The Injured Child suffers from the problems which arise when the proceedings of a symposium are made into a book. One of the main problems is that it is not designed for a specific group of readers. I assume that the audience at the symposium included a lot of people whose work was not primarily paediatric, because I would have thought that most paediatric surgeons would be aware of the content of many of the chapters.

The chapters on child abuse and injury patterns in abused children did not contain anything new, nor did the chapter on the characteristics and treatment of abusive parents. Some of the figures given for the incidence of accidents in children go up to the age of 19 years and so are difficult to compare with the figures for this country. The chapter on snake bite injuries gives a picture of the American problems, with little relevance to this country. Although the chapters are individually titled there is no other index, so that any interesting facts one wants to look up involves laborious searching through several chapters.

Perhaps the best part of the book is some of the comments made by Everett Koop in his Robert Gross address and at the end of some sessions. He emphasised how important it was to remember that injury to a child results in injury to the child's family and the proper management of injury must include assessing all the factors that produced the injury and the effect that injury may have, not only on the child, but on the siblings or his parents. He made the point which many of us here would support wholeheartedly that much more concern should be given to the special needs of children and that there should be some

in charge of emergency services who has 'the health of the whole child as his or her responsibility and can assess what ought to be done and how well things are done based on the child's overall wellbeing'—in fact emergency departments designed specifically for children and appropriately staffed.

This is a book to dip into in the library but not to buy.

CYNTHIA M ILLINGWORTH

The Deaf/Blind Baby. A programme of care. By P Freeman. Pp 152: £7.95 paperback. Heinemann, 1985.

This book is based on the author's many years of experience with the problems of deaf/blind children and their parents. It has been written to meet their needs, particularly during the first few years, and supplements her earlier book, *Understanding the Deaf/Blind Child*. The book first covers some of the general problems and needs of the deaf/blind child emphasising the important role of the parent in providing appropriate experience for the child. This is related to the development of visual and auditory function in the normal infant.

The second section of the book is devoted to the programme itself, divided into six stages, each with a general introduction. These stages gradually introduce activities designed to develop the child's awareness of the world around him and encourage the development of communication and independence. The programme describes ways in which the child can be helped to use residual vision and hearing but also emphasises throughout the importance of using a multisensory approach to pass on information to the child. An integral part of the whole approach is the 'hands-on' method, where the child is placed with his or her back to the adult so that the adult's hands guide the child's. This is also the best position to teach the signs that are used in conjunction with speech for communication.

Throughout the book it is obvious that the author cares about the whole family, of which the disabled child is one member. There is a wealth of practical advice on all aspects of the child's care which may appear daunting at first. This is balanced by the sympathetic approach of one who has faced many of the difficulties herself. There are few professionals with much expertise in this field and I am sure that this book would be very helpful to all who

come into contact with children with combined visual and auditory impairment.

SUSAN BELLMAN

Child Sexual Abuse Within the Family. CIBA Foundation. Edited by R Porter. Pp 156: £12.95 hardback, £5.95 paperback. Tavistock Publications, 1984.

Children who are or have been sexually abused are increasingly being recognised. Many health areas are currently attempting to establish effective procedures and plans of management which are based on a therapeutic approach.

Sexual abuse is common, its manifestations protean and the effect, both short and long term, may be devastating for the child and family. *Child sexual abuse within the family* has been published at an opportune time. The authors (Ciba Foundation study group) represent the different professions involved in the management of sexual abuse. Their aim was to prepare a handbook to provide practical guidance to other professionals and in this they succeed.

The book begins with a clear if perhaps over simplified outline of sexual abuse, its presentation, patterns, and effects. General, and later, more detailed, principles of management are discussed and in particular the pitfalls of multidisciplinary working. Much emphasis is put on family therapy which is not always available, and individual therapy and group therapy with children of similar ages have an important place too. Clearly we have a great deal to learn and a long way to go in the legal management of child sexual abuse. The major concern should be the child but the law seeks to punish the offender, and while sexual abuse is a crime a longer term response to improve and preserve what is good in a family is the aim.

The Devon Police procedural instructions are described and are an impressive example of what is already taking place. Clear but rather brief sections discuss ways of talking with children, prevention, and education. The summary and recommendations are a basis on which to make local plans. Finally there is useful list of references.

All paediatricians see sexually abused children and this book with its clear outlines and selected case reports will give a good overall view of current thought and for those of us more actively engaged in child abuse a good discussion document.

JANE WYNNE

Common Pediatric Disorders. (Clinical Pediatrics Series, vol II). Edited by F Lifshitz. Pp 464: \$95.25 hardback. Marcel Dekker, 1984.

This book is basically a disappointment, as its title does not reflect the range of subjects covered inside.

One would hope that a book of this sort should be, (as is promised in the Preface), a review of current information to keep practising paediatricians up to date. The layout of the book is difficult to scan and the details given, of some fairly recherché conditions, tend to dilute some useful details. The whole book is not problem orientated, which reduces its value for those who must solve problems and make clinical decisions. There are some useful hints about the common association of diabetes and autoimmune thyroiditis; the chapter on Kawasaki disease is a useful updating review, as is the chapter on complex congenital heart disease.

It is always a problem, however, when reading books from the United States as the commonly used drugs have different names and this leads to confusion, especially in the treatment of asthma: I think it would be unusual practice in the United Kingdom for intravenous aminophylline to be given before the use of nebulised adrenergic drugs.

The final chapter on accident prevention is a sensible review of the hazards, and underlines the paediatrician's responsibility, not only in prevention for the individual patients, but also in the role of advising the community and the law makers. Perhaps the most disappointing chapter is the one on substance abuse in pregnancy. It makes no mention of narcotic abuse, concentrating only on alcohol. I think they missed a valuable opportunity here of helping today's paediatrician. They also omitted a chapter on solvent abuse, which seems symptomatic of the delay it takes for editors to draw together current topics and turn them into books!

GRAHAM CLAYDEN

Hematologic Manifestations of Childhood Diseases. By A D Lascari. Pp 461: DM 168.00 hardback. Thieme Stratton, 1984.

This book consists of 16 chapters devoted to cataloguing the haematological abnormalities which have been described in various paediatric disorders grouped ac-