

## Book reviews

**Crying and Babies. Helping Families Cope.** By J Kirkland. Pp 212: £16.95 hardback, £8.95 paperback. Croom Helm, 1985.

This book will be of use to all professionals who are consulted by parents for advice regarding 'crying babies' as distinct from 'babies who cry'. The author has worked with CRYCOS (clinics for people with crying babies) and cry-study students in New Zealand, Canada, and England. He is fully aware of recent published reports, research, and methods apart from the current British paediatric practice of no longer prescribing Merbentyl.

Apparently 10% of families are unduly stressed by their crying babies—it is not only the amount of baby's crying but also the parents' tolerance level which has to be considered. If counselling is inappropriate, maternal depression and child abuse may occur. The author discusses typical problems. Parental expectations and attitudes are explored, various plans and strategies are suggested. There are useful sections on nutrition, chronic and acute medical health, dummies/pacifiers, swaddling, carrying, and rocking. Comprehensive guidelines are given for compiling case notes, and it is suggested an open records system is adopted, where parents are given a copy of their records to gain their involvement. Kirkland suggests compiling a family tree to include patterns of behaviour, allergies and intolerances, which may help to recognise familial trends and possibly relieve guilt in the current situation.

Comprehensive forms are illustrated and permission is given for their replication: a diary for parents to record crying, sleeping, and feeding patterns at 15 minute intervals, and infant profile forms indicating types of crying and the activities when the crying occurs.

The central nervous system and developmental stages are very adequately covered, which would be unnecessary for professionals using the book, but useful for parents. Suggestions for creating a basic library and a comprehensive reference section help to make this a useful book.

JEAN POWELL

**An Atlas of Characteristic Syndromes. A Visual Aid to Diagnosis.** By H R Wiedemann, K R Gross, H Dibbern. Pp 413: £30.00 hardback. Wolfe Medical Publications, 1985.

This book is subtitled 'A Visual Aid to Diagnosis' and covers some of the ground familiar to English language readers in D W Smith's *Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformation*. Unlike Smith's book, *Characteristic Syndromes* is limited to 'blickdiagnosen' and contains only photographs and a brief clinical account of each condition. The reader may find the resulting photographic confrontation with 204 groups of visibly abnormal children disturbing.

In their brief introduction the authors state that they have neither followed the strict definition of a syndrome nor limited themselves to a sharply delineated category of syndromes. Criteria for the inclusion of syndromes are curious. Four autosomal and three sex chromosomal abnormalities are shown. (The 1982 version of Smith lists eight trisomies and six sex chromosome abnormalities). X-linked hypophosphataemic rickets is shown, but no other rickets syndrome. Von Gierke and acrodermatitis enteropathica are included but di George and fragile X, which both have photographic features, are not. By contrast there are several single case reports, such as 'a further microcephaly—small stature—retardation syndrome' accompanied by nine photographs of the same child at apparently the same age but without references. All paediatricians have patients with specific abnormalities who do not fit recognised syndrome patterns. Should such individuals be placed in a book of this kind? I think not.

Those working with sick children need access to a reference text on syndromes. Such a text helps diagnosis by presenting established and well referenced combinations of abnormalities. Yet it must do more than just add to the oddities that can be memorised for exams and dragged out in pursuit of paediatric oneupmanship. Parts of this book fail in that respect. Regrettably *Characteristic Syndromes* would not

be my first choice for a visual aid diagnosis.

E M E POSKITT

**Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis in Children.** Edited by R N Firsiroti, K Scharer, O Mehls. Pp 220: DM 60. Springer-Verlag, 1985.

Continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) was first used in adult patients in 1976 but it was not until 1980 that it was used to treat children with end stage renal failure. It is a technique that is now widely used for children of all ages and preferred by many. In the United Kingdom almost half of all children with end stage renal failure are being treated with CAPD. The First International Symposium on CAPD in Children was held, to provide a forum where specific problems could be discussed. The book contains the contributions of that symposium.

There is something here for all tastes whether it is the cellular biochemistry of uraemia or the social implications of CAPD. The papers discussing the problems of peritonitis and the pharmacokinetics of various antibodies are most helpful. Those discussing the cellular abnormalities in uraemia and the management of very small infants are thought provoking. Inevitably the problems of growth are studied extensively.

The increasing trend to publish the proceedings of scientific meetings in this way may reflect the reluctance of the journals to publish abstracts of meetings but it does allow a more complete paper to be enjoyed and the figures and illustrations are most helpful. A final discussion of the papers by the other symposium participants is always useful and often entertaining and if this had been included it would have added to my enjoyment. Nevertheless, it is a book which all paediatric nephrologists will find valuable.

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