

shapes, changes, and relations. There are also chapters on gait, biomechanics, growth, and maturation in more general terms, including puberty and neuromuscular function. This last comprises mental development as well as physiological development of strength and skill. This is a massive compilation of over 400 high quality illustrations but with the minimum of description. The material is mostly presented directly from original publications of many authors and is as up to date as possible.

When I first opened this book I expected to find it invaluable. Sadly, this did not prove to be the case. The number of contributions is so great that on any particular subject it is difficult to know which one to select, and the lack of textual description makes many areas difficult for the non-orthopaedic specialist to understand. Inevitably, there is little consistency in the format as the material comes directly from so many sources. There is little to which I, as a paediatrician with a special interest in growth, would have cause to refer. The last chapter is useful, including such familiar data as Apgar, Dubowitz, Bailey, and Denver scoring. There are also occasional invaluable oddments within the book, such as standards for growth of children with achondroplasia and other bone dysplasias and performance standards of strength and skill of growing children. There are excellent illustrations of normal gait, and the abnormal progression in Duchenne dystrophy. Though much of the rest is of interest, however, there is little of direct clinical application. Of course, not being American, I found the lack of reference to non-American standards disappointing. In this massive accumulation of data I found only one group derived from Tanner. This was the velocity standards for height and weight. Yet the distance standards for all body measurements, the criteria for pubertal rating, skeletal age

assessment methods, prediction of adult height, etc, included few of those with which we in Europe are familiar and accept as appropriate.

Of course, this book has not been written for the British paediatrician! For those for whom it is primarily intended, American orthopaedic surgeons, it may be excellent, but I am in awe of their understanding of such a complex speciality.

J M H BUCKLER

**Malformation in Children from One to Seven Years.** A report from the collaborative perinatal project. By N C Myriantopoulos. Pp 250: £55.00 hardback. Alan R Liss Inc, 1986.

This is a study of 47 775 singletons who were followed through the ages of 1 to 7 years to describe the types and frequencies of major and minor malformations observed during that period. The malformations are analysed by system, single, and multiple malformations and by race and sex. There is so much information here it is a bit like being asked to review a telephone directory. Impressive and indispensable for those really interested in the subject, but dispensable for most paediatricians.

R M WINTER

**The Problem Knee—Diagnosis and Management in the Younger Patient.** By M F Macnicol. Pp 184: £19.50 hardback. Heinemann, 1986.

The author has aimed his book at a wide readership, which includes physiotherapists, coaches, family doctors, and accident officers. He has emphasised the importance of accurate diagnosis and given general guidance on operative treatment. With the number of books already available on

the knee it seemed at first sight unlikely that there was a place for yet another one. By the clear definition of his objectives and emphasis on overall management, however, Mr Macnicol has produced an interesting and useful short book. It provides up to date information on the present day treatment of common problems in the knee. There is a systematic description starting from mechanisms and presentation of injuries to techniques involved in the rehabilitation of the damaged knee. The section on the diagnosis of the various ligamentous injuries is particularly clear and well illustrated. Methods of investigation are discussed in some detail and include examples of computed axial tomography and images produced with nuclear magnetic resonance. Although the main bulk of the text is devoted to injuries, there is a useful chapter on non-traumatic conditions.

There is no doubt that this book fills a gap. It is very likely to be popular with orthopaedic residents and registrars as well as the audience for which it is intended.

LESLIE KLENERMAN

**Cranial Computed Tomography in Infants and Children.** By E N Faerber. Pp 237: £16.00 hardback. Blackwell Scientific, 1986.

This book is not solely an atlas of cranial computed tomography; there is a good deal of explanatory text. Scanning techniques are clearly described and the section on normal anatomy is excellent. The book is comprehensive, sometimes at the expense of detail on the more common conditions. The majority of illustrations are clear, but some are far too dark to see any detail. On the whole I found this book a very useful guide. It is well indexed and the references are up to date.

S H GREEN