result are highly repetitive. They cover little new ground, but the transatlantic perspective is interesting with its emphasis on outpatient care from diagnosis and the assumption that a multidisciplinary team will be available to offer home based educational support.

It would be a pity if either layout or jargon discouraged paediatricians from taking advantage of Dr Brink's fine critical review of the paediatric literature on diabetes and its humane clinical application. It should be available to the team in all paediatric diabetes outpatient departments.

A-L KINMONTH

intrauterine development of the skull, the effects on head form of intrauterine compression and passage through the birth canal, intraventricular haemorrhage and the epidemiology of craniocerebral trauma in the first two years of life before describing the more expected subjects of diagnosis, management, and outcome.

With function and development in the infant brain so intimately mingled there must always be uncertainty and therefore concern about the effects of trauma. Any book which reduces this atmosphere of mystery is to be welcomed, and therefore I have no hesitation in recommending this volume to all those concerned in the care of these unfortunate young patients.

R HAYWARD

Principles of Pediatric Neurosurgery. Series editor A J Raimondi. **Head Injuries in the Newborn and Infant.** Edited by A J Raimondi, M Choux, C Di Rocco. Pp 292: DM 118 hardback. Springer-Verlag, 1986.

Complications of Paediatric Surgery. James Lister. Pp 294: £29.50 hardback. Bailliere Tindall, 1986.

First a welcome to a new series, *Principles of Pediatric Neurosurgery*, of which this volume is the first. In the United Kingdom the treatment of the head injured child is less than ideal: there are no full time paediatric neurosurgeons and some neurosurgical units do not even have specialised facilities for the care of paediatric cases. Yet trauma (and particularly any cerebral component) is the commonest cause of death in patients under 14 years of age and we are all well aware of the complexities of the child who has suffered a non-accidental injury.

If the principles of management for the older child are not so very different to those of the adult, the same can certainly not be said for the newborn and infants who are the subject of this book. That we all survive the traumas of child birth apparently unscathed seems miraculous enough but how do subsequent injuries affect a brain that is still involved in the vital processes of myelination and dendritic arborisation? The contributors to this book come from all over the world and they deal in turn with such basic subjects as the

The main purpose of this volume is to bring to the notice of the general surgeon, and particularly the surgeon in training, the complications that may follow quite simple procedures in children and to indicate how they may be avoided. This is the stated aim of the book. The intention was to avoid the neonatal surgery that is undertaken in specialist units and the less common conditions of children.

The text is liberally illustrated and the numerous illustrations (clinical photographs, x ray films, and diagrams) are often useful for diagnosis. Neonatal surgical conditions are given space — for example, four x ray pictures of infants with oesophageal atresia each showing a slightly different aspect. The interesting presentation of neonatal surgical problems is balanced by the common conditions such as inguinal herniae. It seems a pity in discussing the complications that nothing more is said about strangulation than that it is rare in childhood. The point that it is only likely to occur in the very young infant is not made, whereas incarceration can occur at any age. Conditions such as appendicitis,

intussusception, and undescended testes are reviewed. The book would seem to be of most value to paediatricians along with surgeons in training rather than to experienced general surgeons. For the former groups it gives a good oversight to many of the conditions requiring surgery in infancy and childhood.

D G YOUNG

Radiology of the Pediatric Chest. Alvin H Felman. Pp 484: £80.00 hardback. McGraw-Hill, 1987.

In his preface the author indicates his intention to produce a book both for clinicians who wish to interpret chest radiographs and for radiologists who need to be aware of the clinical manifestations of disease. This approach is difficult and often fails in its objective, but this is a successful and useful book.

Sections deal with congenital abnormalities, neonatal pulmonary disorders, the mediastinum, roentgenographic patterns in pulmonary disease, infections, and infestations. The final two sections deal with a miscellany of conditions including tumour and trauma and with the more recent techniques (by a coauthor) of computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and ultrasound, although relatively little mention is made of the potential of nuclear medicine. The range of diseases covered is very wide. The text is adequately comprehensive in clinical, pathological, and radiological content. The numerous illustrations are generally good and the references profuse and pertinent.

For the paediatrician who wishes to acquaint himself with chest radiology this is a commendable book but the price, which is very high, many may feel prohibitive. The radiologist may well feel that his money is better spent contributing towards a modern edition of 'Caffey.' For those in training this is an educative and readable text which could usefully be available in departmental libraries.

D G SHAW