Book reviews

Clinical Pediatric Otolaryngology. T J Balkany and N R T Pashley. Pp 509: £46.50 hardback. C V Mosby Co, 1986.

This multiauthor contribution includes many authors from Colorado, but also others from a variety of North American centres. The book seems well-constructed and edited. There is a feeling of uniformity between the chapters by different authors that is often lacking in multiauthor textbooks. Moreover, the editors themselves have made significant contributions that are dispersed throughout the book.

It covers most aspects of paediatric otolaryngological practice, which is increasingly developing as a separate subspecialty within our field. After many of the chapters there are flow charts that will help residents in training. References are sometimes brief, and some of the illustrations are rather inadequate and some sections lack illustrations where they may have been helpful. The introductory section on general consideration is perhaps the weakest, and the chapter on allergic disease is particularly superficial in context considering the importance of the subject. There is, however, a useful contribution on the otolaryngological manifestations of systemic disease. The chapters on ear disease reflect a sensible approach to management but brevity in some sections is the limiting factor. The difficult question of microtia certainly merits inclusion of a wider variety of surgical options.

There is a full and interesting contribution on dentofacial development and upper airway obstruction that I particularly enjoyed. It is always unfortunate to see illustrations reproduced from other textbooks, especially if they are less than perfect as is the case in the section on nasal and sinus disease. By contrast, inclusion of other relevant diagrams in the section on laryngology may have enhanced the text. A further criticism of brevity might be levelled at the chapter on tumours and cysts of the neck. Generally the text is complete and easy to read but at a fairly basic level of scientific content. Nevertheless, at this price it is a reasonable purchase that will satisfy the needs of students and trainees in otolaryngology and paediatrics. It will shortly have to compete with a UK edition of Scott Brown, however, which now has a

volume devoted to paediatric otolaryngology. Most departments should purchase both volumes to be in a position to evaluate management regimens on each side of the Atlantic.

A R MAW

Orthopaedic Management in Cerebral Palsy. Eugene E Bleck. Pp 497: £28.00 hardback. Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1987.

This volume is concerned with a description of orthopaedic management in its widest sense of children and young people with cerebral palsy rather than with details of orthopaedic surgical procedures. Its aim is to present a relevant perspective on cerebral palsy to orthopaedic surgeons and also to physicians and therapists. As a result the first portion of the book is concerned with descriptions of cerebral palsy and its functional effects, how function can be assessed both clinically and by special investigations, and underlying neurobiological processes so far as these are understood. From this platform a detailed account is constructed of the outlook that can be expected for individuals affected by cerebral palsy and hence of the treatment and management goals that can reasonably be attempted. This section deals critically but fairly with the many physiotherapy systems that are available and advocated, and there is also a relatively brief discussion on the usefulness, or otherwise, of the wide array of aids and appliances including orthoses that are or have been in common usage. There follows three detailed sections on spastic hemiplegia, spastic diplegia, and where there is total body involvement. In all of these the details of various orthopaedic procedures are described and placed within the context of the overall management of individual patients. Professor Bleck's personal views and experiences give an authoritative and welcome air to this section of the book.

This is an important and useful volume. Its strengths are its perspective on the place of orthopaedic surgery in the management of cerebral palsy, its personal and critical evaluations of specific surgical procedures, its recognition of what 'science' can and

cannot offer in this field, and its emphasis on the need for appropriate team work as well as professionals. The linguistic style makes for easy reading and the cited references are full. The book can be recommended for physicians, surgeons and therapists who have an interest in cerebral palsy as it is primarily a very helpful overview of orthopaedic management and is also a reference in respect of the place of individual surgical procedures.

L ROSENBLUM

Medical and Experimental Mammalian Genetics: A Perspective. Edited by V McKusick, T H Roderick, J Mori, N Paul. Pp 358: \$69.50 hardback. Birth Defects: Original Article Series. Volume 23, Number 3. Alan R Liss Inc, 1987.

This is a collection of 14 papers to mark the first 27 years of a course held at the Jackson Laboratory on the beautiful coast of Maine. This 'Bar Harbor' course brings together medical and experimental mammalian geneticists and underlines the fact that they share much in terms of methods and research goals. This book shows the common areas and gives a glimpse of the enormous rate of progress in our understanding in these fields in recent years.

The first chapter gives a historical perspective on mammalian genetics referring mainly to progress in gene mapping. Papers on mammalian chromosome techniques of gene mapping, and the study of mutations follow. Evolution, both molecular and by the study of fossil records, is discussed in two fascinating chapters, and the help given to those investigating human disease by the study of mouse models is well described.

Of particular interest to those involved in the care of patients are the excellent papers by Cavenee on recessive mutations at human cancer loci: particularly retinoblastoma and Wilms' tumour, but likely to be applicable soon to other cancers; and Wallace on diseases likely to be due to mitochondrial genes. Showing that it is not all theory there is a review of the detection of genetic disorders by DNA analysis.