Book reviews

Screening for Hearing Impairment in Young Children. By B McCormick. Pp 110: £8.95 paperback. Croom Helm, 1988. ISBN 0-7099-4643-0.

This book concentrates on the methods of screening hearing of children between the ages of 6 months and 3.5 years of age. There is a very brief section on the concept of actual hearing screening but most of the book is directed to the practical aspects of the screening procedure. There are sections on the choice of stimuli used, the use of a sound level meter to measure stimuli, and on the actual technique for testing of babies with mental ages of 6-18 months, 18 months-2.5 years, and 2.5 years-3.5 years. For the older children there is also a discussion of suitable speech discrimination material and the author concentrates throughout on the test and procedures that have been developed in Nottingham. There is also a chapter covering acoustics, hearing, and causes of deafness, but medical readers would find this pitched at too basic a level. The final short chapter covers screening techniques that are being evaluated at the moment. These are really geared to the neonatal population and would be interesting for professionals not directly involved in the field who have gained some insight into present fields of investigation.

Overall this book would be of interest mainly to doctors and other professionals who are concerned with preschool hearing screening. The importance of the book lies in the very strong emphasis on accurate and reliable screening techniques with very clear instructions as to how the tests should be carried out. This is very important if countrywise we are to improve our present inadequate hearing screening programmes.

S BELLMAN

Burns in Children: Pediatric Burn Management. Edited by HF Carvajal and DH Parks. Pp 385: £56 hardback. Year Book Medical Publishers, 1988. ISBN 0-8151-1442-7.

This book provides as comprehensive a textbook on the subject as is available at this time, albeit from a distinctly transatlantic perspective. The opening section

on epidemiology and burn prevention in childhood is a major area of concern given the current magnitude of the problem of burns in children. Controversies in fluid resuscitation are reviewed in excessive detail with a somewhat unhelpful conclusion. The ensuing chapters contain much more practical management plans for resuscitation, dressing, antibacterial treatment, and nutrition, together with common pitfalls clearly outlined; this is valuable material for anyone getting to grips with burns management. Surgical treatment options are well described, and the chapters on wound cover and dressings are admirably up to date. Two further lengthy sections are devoted to infection, immunology, and organ failure.

The book ends with four excellent chapters on rehabilitation; the first on hypertrophic scarring is a succinct review of this controversial subject, which unfortunately does not deal with the changes induced by the various treatments which are currently available. The occupational therapist's role is well described, as are the readable descriptions of psychosocial care and discharge planning, which are so often given perfunctory consideration by attending surgeons. A short final chapter devoted entirely to discharge planning indicates the importance this subject is given in the editors' units.

This is a well planned book which should prove a useful reference volume for burns units. For the junior doctor learning burns management it may prove too detailed and indigestible unless a special interest is to be developed. The historical background passages and reference lists are comprehensive and very valuable. More than a little of the book is directed at burns in all age groups, and it occasionally lacks the specific paediatric concern which singles it out from the many other general burns texts.

T E E GOODACRE

L'Enfant et Sa Santé: Aspects Epidemiologiques, Biologiques, Psychologiques et Sociaux. Edited by M Manciaux, S Lebovici, O Jeanneret, EA Sand, and S Tomkiewicz. Pp 1326, UK price unstated. Doin Editeurs, Paris, 1987. ISBN 2-7040-0539-7.

In this ambitious multiauthor text a large number of contributors who are almost entirely from French speaking countries—especially France, Switzerland, and Belgium—have summarised information concerning the physical, social, and psychological development of the child. Evidently a public health approach to paediatric disorders and paediatric epidemiology is thriving in these countries as the abundant references to unfamiliar studies published in French journals made this reviewer, at least, feel inadequately parochial in his knowledge. There are especially good sections on the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and on accidents and accident prevention. The book will be found a valuable source of information by anyone seeking an up to date account of French social paediatrics.

P J GRAHAM

Childhood Pain. By D M Ross and S A Ross. Pp 384: £39.50 hardback. Urban and Schwarzenberg, 1987. ISBN 0-8067-1631-2.

A friend recently made a comment which surprised me at the time, suggesting that American thought is much more Teutonic than British, but this book illustrates that point. In a wealth of detail, it presents information about the history of our understanding of pain, methods for evaluating, managing, or preventing pain, with carefully documented references throughout, which ultimately constitute 12.3% of the total pages. This attention to detail which is its mark, as well as its intended interdisciplinary readership, make it rather difficult for the clinician to do more than learn from and perhaps build upon other peoples' research. There are, however, useful chapters, particularly an early one dealing with the child's view of pain in different age groups and a later one on behavioural and cognitive intervention before painful procedures and during pain.

Pain is seen to stem from a mix of factors which can be difficult to untangle: thus emotional and physical pain enhance each other. Kinds of pain discussed range from the acute pain (of dressing burns or of bone marrow aspiration) to chronic or recurrent

pain (rheumatoid disease, migraine) and there is a welcome emphasis on helping the child to cope with such discomfort. It has to be said that the chapter on the physical management of pain, with its emphasis on a pharmacopoeia largely unfamiliar to British paediatricians, is less help than other sections that deal with behavioural and cognitive intervention, providing as they do ideas for play therapists and psychological strategies for children to use. Those of us who have a sinking feeling that there should be a greater use of these strategies in both medical and surgical children's wards may be comforted that in one of the authors' own research projects, which asked what would help a child most when experiencing the 'worst pain ever', 99.2% of the children felt that, regardless of the kind of pain, the 'thing that helped most' was to have one or both parents present. Here, at least, we are on home ground.

J GOODALL

Pediatric Surgical Pathology. 2nd ed. By L Dehner. Pp 1121; £147 hardback. Williams and Wilkins, 1987. ISBN 0-683-02425-6.

It is rare that a reviewer of my degree of senility handles a book that can be recommended without reservation. This is one such.

Every clinical paediatric pathologist will be familiar with the first edition of *Pediatric Surgical Pathology*, which appeared over 10 years ago, and will have wondered about a new edition. This book is about twice the size of the first (3.5 kg) with over 1100 pages and firmly packed three column script, and an almost similar number of photographs. Louis Dehner has involved some others to help him in some sections of the book but most of the writing appears to be his alone. The term 'surgical pathology' is perhaps a too limiting term for this book's scope which covers virtually every organ and tissue. In the renal tract, renal biopsies and metabolic disease receive as much attention as cysts and gross anatomical 'surgical' deformities. The book covers all of the medical conditions for which the biopsy needle can be applied. It is difficult to find a section of this book that has less than 1000 references, the kidney itself has about 1400, and every section list

contains many in 1986, within a year of the date of publication.

This is a black and white book. There have been a number of recent colour atlases of children's pathology, which against this look like popular coffee table volumes and beside this volume look slick and superficial—which they are! The microphotographs are of good quality and there is a scattering of reproductions of clinical radiographs that will help the clinician. If I have one criticism, it is that the reproduction from gross specimens have that slight woolly texture that suggests that they have been obtained from colour slides.

This book costs £147 but its value related to the extent of its contents is cheap. Its scope is encyclopaedic, its style concise and non-philosophical—it is a very practical workbook. It is a high priority book for inclusion in any paediatric department's library, an essential book for departments of paediatric pathology, and a reference book for general departments of pathology.

J L EMERY