Book reviews

The Malformed Fetus and Stillbirth—a Diagnostic Approach. By RM Winter, SAS Knowles, FR Bieber, M Baraitser. Pp 317: £75 hardback. John Wiley, 1988. ISBN 0-4719-0946-7.

A cynical British paediatrician, should such a person exist, would be excused for thinking that a book written for perinatal pathologists would have a pitifully limited market in the United Kingdom. This book will have relevance to a much wider range of clinicians than its title might imply, however, and will also be useful to geneticists, radiologists, and even obstetricians. Paediatricians will certainly welcome this complement to Smith's *Recognisable Malformations*, as they become increasingly involved in counselling parents of the malformed fetus diagnosed in utero by ultrasound. It also happens to be one of those books that is physically pleasurable to handle and to read, although unfortunately its subject matter makes it unsuitable for the coffee table.

The first section deals with the definitions and statistics concerning pregnancy loss and perinatal death. The second section is a practical guide to the pathologist on the examination of the fetus and the placenta. Section 3 forms the bulk of the text and illustrations. A chapter on chromosomal abnormalities is followed by a sequence of chapters dealing with specific organ systems or anatomical regions. This section also contains chapters dealing specifically with the diagnosis of hydropic fetuses, and the problems associated with twin pregnancies and intrauterine infections. There are exhaustive lists based on physical findings, listing the possible associated syndromes. Section 4 describes these various syndromes, arranged in alphabetical order, and reviewed succinctly with key references. Tables and graphs of normal fetal measurements and organ weights at different gestations complete the text, and the index is clear and seems comprehensive.

The chapters dealing with individual organ systems are very liberally illustrated with well reproduced black and white pathological photographs and radiographs. Indeed the illustrations are so dense in some places that the text becomes separated from the relevant tables and illustrations.

From a paediatrician's point of view there is a merciful lack of photomicrographs. The section on chromosomal disorders is a little thin compared with very comprehensive chapters on, for instance, lethal bone dysplasias and craniofacial abnormalities. Chromosomal disorders are also omitted from section four, which describes the major features of over 300 multiple anomaly syndromes. The descriptions are necessarily brief, and one or two key references are given, of which approximately half refer to standard paediatric and half to genetic journals.

The use of this book may involve a little more page turning than is necessary using a text with a 'page-a-syndrome' format, but the benefit of clearly written overviews of the organ systems and their defects outweighs this slight disadvantage. The wide selection of recent and technically excellent clinical photographs, the comprehensive diagnostic lists, and the thorough referencing make it an extremely useful text for neonatologists, pathologists, geneticists, and ultrasonographers. Unfortunately for those running department libraries, and fortunately for the publishers, it is a book which induces an unhealthy degree of possessiveness in the reader.

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Pediatric Intensive Care. By Jeffrey P Morray. Pp 581: £64.15 hardback. Prentice-Hall, 1987. ISBN 0-8385-7800-4.

Paediatric intensive care incorporates all life threatening or potentially life threatening childhood illness. The subject is vast and difficult to encompass in one book. Jeffrey Morray and 46 coauthors, mostly from Seattle, have attempted to cover the subject in under 600 pages. The book is organised along the lines of a daily ward round with each system covered in turn. There are 13 system headings further divided into 50 different topics.

In order to cover such a large amount of ground each subject is covered briefly and at first glance very superficially. For in-

stance, congenital heart disease is summarised in seven pages. However, many short sections do contain a remarkable amount of information. Subjects covered include all the main system disorders, psychological and ethical issues, pharmacology, transport, and a useful section on the intensive care management of child abuse. There are a large number of tables, mostly copied from previous publications, and after each short section is a comprehensive reference list.

Several important topics are missed out or covered inadequately. The section on infection is very brief with only 150 words on meningitis, and near miss cot death, toxic shock syndrome, haemorrhagic shock encephalopathy syndrome, and bronchopulmonary dysplasia are not covered at all.

There are obvious problems in translating the American approach to the British system, confusion over drug names and laboratory units is a minor irritation. Overall this is a practical reference book for the intensive care unit but of limited use for the general paediatrician.

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Infant Feeding: Anatomy of a Controversy 1973-1984. Edited by John Dobbing. Pp 169: £16.50 hardback. Springer-Verlag, 1988. ISBN 3-540-19514-9.

This book gives a well written and reasoned account of a controversy which concerned Europe, the United States, and the Third World over a period of more than 10 years. It gives a fascinating insight into the relationships between multinational companies (as exemplified in this case by Nestlé), consumer organisations, activists, and the mass media; the pressures which can be brought to bear by one upon the others; and the misunderstandings and acrimony which can arise when interested parties become involved. It ends on a mixed note of optimism that the conflict has been resolved to the apparent satisfaction of all parties and caution that the International Code of Marketing of Breast-