

brain are clearly written and well referenced, but the clinician may find them rather too theoretical.

For the general paediatrician there is much in this volume to help in the day to day management of epilepsy. For the specialist in childhood epilepsy there is an imaginative range of contributions, and all are superbly referenced.

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**Biology of Human Milk.** Edited by Lars A Hanson. (Nestlé Nutrition Workshop Series Vol 15.) Pp 231: \$61.50 hardback. Raven Press, 1988. ISBN 0-88167-431-1.

With so much discussion concerning the

suitability of formula milks particularly for the low birthweight neonate, it is encouraging to find a book devoted to the opposition! This book represents the latest in the *Nestlé Nutrition Workshop* series and has pulled together experts from both Europe and the United States and represents a broad depth of investigation.

The subjects covered are the chemical composition of human milk, from protein to the trace elements, both the hormonal factors and enzymes present and their possible roles, and the anti-infective properties, including cellular as well as chemical constituents. The style is to give an authoritative view, and then to include discussion from the participants at the workshop, which generally works well, and many of the important points raised occur in the discussion sections, which add depth to the book.

The subjects covered are, in the main,

well chosen, and provide an idea of progress for those not in the field of recent advances in the study of breast milk. It is disappointing, however, that so little mention is made of practical problems that present themselves to those concerned with feeding sick infants, and in particular the role of milk banking. With so much concern about HIV and breast milk, I found it surprising that this only warranted a couple of lines in discussion.

On the whole this is a fascinating book and while there is little to be gained practically, it does give an insight into the gold standard for infant nutrition, and such should be read by those responsible for infant feeding.

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