

enzymes follow before growth factors occupy two further chapters. The final contribution on growth factors, including milk growth factors, produces an excellent bibliography for those interested in this burgeoning area of research. The penultimate chapter is an extensive and excellent contribution on the adaptation of the fetus to extrauterine nutrition, which should be required reading for students of human biology as well as clinicians. Finally, consideration is given to growth in the first year, with particular emphasis on the endocrine milieu rather than the auxological aspect.

The organisation of the material within this volume could have been improved upon; the five chapters concerned with growth factors from conception to the end of the first year of life could have been consecutive.

Readers interested in the relationship between early growth and long term growth will be disappointed and this aspect possibly warranted a short chapter, but

nevertheless this is a useful, informative, and readable collection of papers.

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Neonatal Anesthesia. Edited by D Cook and J Marcy. Pp 262: £40 hardback. Appleton Davies Inc, 1988. ISBN 0-941022-10-2.

More than half this book on neonatal anaesthesia concentrates on the basic sciences, physiology, and pharmacology, and has the high standard of writing usual in American textbooks. It would prove a useful reference to both paediatric anaesthetists and neonatal paediatricians in training.

The chapters on anaesthetic technique and respiratory care, however, are less

comprehensive and not entirely specific to the neonatal age group, frequently referring to much older children.

A specific discussion on the relative differences between a newly born baby and a chronologically older ex-premature infant of similar gestational age seems an important omission, as does a section on the use of local anaesthetic agents, both for surgery and postoperative analgesia, though this probably reflects different clinical practices across the Atlantic.

The editors state that they wished to avoid the cook book approach and while doing this they have lost some of the usefulness because of omissions to trained paediatric anaesthetists.

This book would provide a useful addition to the library shelf, but because of the scope and price would be unlikely to be 'best buy' for individuals.

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