miology, DNA studies, and counselling, and hence is difficult to draw together.

This book is a useful clinical review of a common and devastating disorder, but it is not comprehensive. The fragile X syndrome accounts for a third to a half of all X linked mental retardation. An introductory overview to place the fragile X syndrome in this context and to summarise the main features and dilemmas would have been helpful. One key issue that is not addressed is the role of genetic registers—the ethical use of such a register, the cost and logistics, and appropriate long term management of families.

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Pediatric Cardiovascular Imaging. Edited by Ina Tonkin. (Pp 288; £57 hardback.) W B Saunders Company, 1992. ISBN 0-7216-3665-9.

The practice of paediatric cardiology has been revolutionised by the widespread use of high resolution cross sectional and Doppler echocardiography to provide the accurate morphological and haemodynamic diagnoses necessary for optimal management of children with congenital heart disease. Since the mid-1980s, the use of diagnostic angiography has, there-

fore, been increasingly restricted to complex lesions, such as pulmonary atresia with multifocal pulmonary blood supply, and to older patients with poor echo windows. Recently new methods of imaging and access have been introduced: magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrafast computed tomography, and transoesophageal echocardiography. All are vying with each other and conventional investigations to find a place in the assessment of these patients, despite the relatively high costs in hardware and training. A textbook that provided a logical and rational approach to this array of diagnostic imaging techniques in the context of the whole spectrum of congenital heart pathology, while taking into account the differing needs of the fetus, neonate, child and adolescent, would be of great value. At first sight this book should provide just such an insight for the training and paediatric cardiologist or radiologist.

Unfortunately the authors, who mainly come from the American mid-west, have not achieved this. The main fault is the sparse recognition of the eminence of echocardiography in day to day clinical practice. There is a striking contrast between the 34 page chapter on echocardiography and the dominant 94 page chapter on angiography. No mention is made in the echo section of lesions such as Ebstein's anomaly (except under fetal echocardiography), common arterial trunk, hearts with univentricular atrioventricular connection (including tricuspid atresia), or cor triatriatum; yet they merit relatively long sections in the

angiography section. One would be forgiven for the impression that echocardiography is merely an adjunct to angiography for most patients, including sick neonates. Perhaps this reflects the radiological background of most of the authors, as the opposite is currently the case in most paediatric cardiology centres. There is no mention of transoesophageal or intraoperative echocardiography, both of which are of increasing importance.

There is much duplication of the anatomical and therapeutic descriptions of the various lesions throughout the book and perhaps these would better have been summarised in one of the first two chapters. Readers in training may find some of the terminology confusing as terms such as 'single ventricle' are rarely used in UK centres. No comparison of merit for specific lesions is made between angiography (invasive), MRI, and ultrafast computed tomography (expensive) and echocardiography as they are largely isolated in their individual chapters and it is difficult to know the best place for these various investigations in every day clinical practice.

On the positive side, the chapters on plain film radiography, interventional catheterisation, and fetal echocardiography give good accounts of their usefulness and importance and the illustrations are of high quality. However, the problems listed above make it difficult to recommend this book.

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