when faced with a difficult problem. Consequently, this book will be used frequently in the anticipation of being directed elsewhere.

For paediatric pathologists, the scope of this book, the tabled summaries, and extensive references, will make it a valuable and well used addition to their library. Pathologists whose workload is more 'perinatal' may find other recent publications of more practical help. Paediatricians would find the succinct pathological descriptions, together with the citations, a valuable resource to supplement their clinical texts but, unless funds are abundant, this is probably more a reference book for their hospital library than for personal ownership.

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Static Encephalopathies of Infancy and Childhood. Edited by Geoffery Miller and Jeanette C Ramer. (Pp 372; \$144 hardback.) Raven Press, 1992. ISBN 0-88167-872-4.

I picked up this book with interest, I was not quite certain what to expect but assumed it would cover 'cerebral palsy' in its wider step, and define insults to the brain, including, for example, prenatal infections, alcohol syndrome etc. Having read it, I have to say I am a little disappointed with the overall balance of the book, although it is good, even very good, in parts.

The authors' (both paediatric neurologists in the USA) aim was to cover a range of static conditions affecting the brain and bring together up to date information on 'growing points in this field', and to some extent they have succeeded.

There is an excellent chapter on the neuro-radiology of static encephalopathy including prenatal malformations, perinatal asphyxia, and postnatal damage. Barkovich is a prolific writer who writes lucidly for the non-radiologist and the illustrations are excellent. It certainly shows the superiority and value of good magnetic resonance imaging in this situation.

Chapters on perinatal and postnatal encephalopathy are clear reviews, as well as up to date, including rather more neurophysiology and neurochemistry than I think would be found in equivalent English reviews. There is a good, very helpful chapter on cerebral dysgenesis by Dobyns, reviewing current

embryological developmental thoughts, but sadly he does not include a section on megalencephaly. There are competent chapters on Prader-Willi and Angelman's syndromes, with a view of imprinting, and on Down's and fragile X syndromes, but they don't really go with the rest of the book. There are three very brief chapters on retardation associated with muscle disease (myotonic dystrophy, congenital myopathy, and Duchenne dystrophy), which are helpful, but again one would not expect to find them in a book with such a title.

There are chapters which give a reasonable overview of retardation, management, and behavioural problems of retarded children, as well as counselling.

There is a very good review by Kevin McDonnell, a philosopher, on ethical principles in the management of retarded children, which would stand very well on its own.

Overall I found the book had very useful contributions. It is very well printed, extremely well referenced, and up to date, however, it does not 'hang together'. One would not expect to find an article on Duchenne dystrophy and retardation, or a chapter on the ethics of mental handicap, in a book of this title. Despite its limitations it remains a useful reference book, and I would highly recommend the chapter on neuroradiology, together with one or two others highlighted above.

A 'tighter' book would have been better, it is nevertheless a useful reference book, but not for prolonged reading at home.

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VIDEO REVIEW

Training Video: The Biology, Development and Care of Twins, Triplets and More. £25 (including postage and packing). Available from the Multiple Births Foundation, Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG.

I feel particularly well qualified to review this video, being not only a child psychiatrist but

also an identical twin and one with a twin who is a paediatrician to boot, sometimes literally.

The expert commentary on the film is provided by the medical director of the Multiple Births Foundation, Dr Elizabeth Bryan, a paediatrician who specialises in work with families who have had multiple pregnancies. The video is principally aimed at professionals working with such families. Although relatively short, it bristles with information and corrects many commonly held misconceptions. Above all it contains much sound practical advice. This is particularly important in view of the enormous increase in the incidence of twins but more specifically in higher order births over the past 10 years, predominantly due to the new treatments now being offered for infertility.

The film lasts 34 minutes and is divided into several short sections which can be viewed individually if appropriate. The title of these sections are self explanatory: biology of twinning, zygosity, causes of twinning, diagnosis and pregnancy, newborn twins, feeding, the first years, higher order births, a twin with a disability, bereavement, and where to find help. The earlier sections are more technical and the later part of more general interest. The video is of generally good quality with particularly clear diagrams. However, the sound quality on my copy was disappearing.

Who would use this video? I would suggest that it should be viewed by antenatal clinic staff and would be of interest to workers in the community and general practice. Each paediatric unit of special care baby unit would benefit from possessing a copy to show to staff and parents. The video could be lent to parents to use at home, although it may not be of universal interest to them as the language is technical in places and some sections, such as that on fetofetal transfusions are potentially frightening. With some selection of what is shown and professional advice, twin clubs should be rushing to acquire and show this video. I already have a small list of parents of twins who have asked me to lend them my review copy, and I can strongly recommend it to involved professionals. Finally I would like to add my own personal plea that when watching this film, professionals and parents do not concentrate exclusively on the negative aspects of multiple births, but glean some of the enjoyment and continuous fascination of being or having a twin.

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