

BOOK REVIEWS

E. A. Shinebourne & R. H. Anderson: *Current paediatric cardiology*. Oxford University Press, Oxford 1980. 129 pp., illus. £12.50. ISBN 0-19-261141-0.

This book is intended to give "a simple account of paediatric cardiology suitable for general cardiologists and paediatricians, paediatric cardiologists in training, senior medical students and workers in ancillary fields". A number of invited experts have contributed in their special fields of knowledge. In a great part of the book advanced knowledge is presented and the reader who is not familiar with fundamentals of cardiology and clinical physiology might get into difficulties.

The authors have made important contributions to morphology, nomenclature and classification of congenital heart disease in recent years. The approach of sequential chamber localization is explained in detail and will certainly facilitate understanding of more or less complex cardiovascular malformations. The first part also deals with diagnostic aspects, circulatory adaptation at birth, principles of surgical treatment and normal embryogenesis of the heart.

The second part contains 27 short chapters describing specific congenital heart lesions, some of them very rare. The number of pages dedicated to the various heart diseases is not always related to the frequency of the lesion (example: ventricular septal defect, 8 pages, compared to univentricular heart, 11 pages). Each chapter describes the anatomy and embryology, the incidence, the clinical findings and the treatment of the lesion. The natural history, the postoperative course and the differential diagnosis are described only exceptionally. Not rarely, the authors firmly state their personal views on controversial issues.

The book is recommended to a reader with significant basic knowledge as an updated comprehensive textbook covering most essential parts of paediatric cardiology.

Magnus Michaëlsson

Marshall H. Klaus & Avroy A. Fanaroff: *Care of the high-risk neonate*. 2nd ed. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, London, Toronto 1979. 437 pp., illus. £11.50. ISBN 0-7216-5478-9.

"Care of the High-Risk Neonate", edited by Klaus and Fanaroff which first appeared in 1972, was very rapidly established as one of the classical books in the field.

This book now appears in its second edition. Many chapters have been extensively revised and one new chapter is added. It deals with antenatal and intrapartum care of the high-risk infants. The chapter "Care of the Parents"—formerly "Care of the Mother"—covers in a better way an important part of neonatal medicine.

The contributors as well as many critical commentators give a comprehensive, stimulating and often entertaining presentation of the current knowledge in perinatology.

As in the preceding edition the text is mixed with questions and answers. To quote the foreword by Nicholas M.

Nelson: "Much more than a teaching or practical manual this second edition of their noted work is a learning book."

The book has its definite place in the library of any paediatrician practising perinatal medicine.

Per Henriksson

B. Wharton: *Topics in perinatal medicine*. Pitman Medical, Great Britain 1980. 176 pp., illus. No price given. ISBN 0-272-795747.

In 17 sections 25 contributors discuss many various aspects of perinatal care. The first of four parts deals with critical interpretation of perinatal statistics with special emphasis on UK; the immunological enigma of pregnancy, assessment of fetal wellbeing and the problems of preterm delivery. In the second part the management of hyaline membrane disease, small for date infants and congenital malformations are discussed. Part three concerns perinatal death and the family, and aspects of nutrition, neonatal morbidity and growth. In the last part the organization of neonatal intensive care is discussed. The topics included have been presented at a symposium held in Birmingham 1978 by the British Paediatric Perinatal Group.

The book is ended by four Mary Crosse Lectures in memory of one of the pioneers in British Perinatal medicine. They deal with the quality of life in those risk babies who survive, the specific problems for the Asian mother and her baby, breast feeding, and, finally, a review of perinatal care in the UK and in a developing country.

The book is easily read and although some of the content is of local interest, most of it has a wider importance. It can be recommended mainly for those who have specialized in perinatal medicine.

Per Henriksson

C. L. Paxson: *Van Leeuwen's newborn medicine*. 561 pp., illus. Year Book Medical Publishers, London 1979. \$37.00. ISBN 0-8151-6656-7.

The second edition of Van Leeuwen's newborn medicine, as the first edition, is primarily designed for practitioners and students of general pediatrics. The editor, however, states in the preface that "it is hoped that the result is a body of information that will prove useful to all physicians on the front line—specifically the family practitioner, the obstetrician and the pediatrician". The 22 chapters are written by various authors and the editor is involved in 8 chapters. The pathophysiology required to understand the various clinical conditions is usually well presented with many pertinent figures and tables of important physiological findings.

Many of these data are undoubtedly of great value also for the graduate student in neonatology and for teachers.

The quality of the various chapters varies greatly, some being outstanding and others less interesting. Among the good chapters I would like to mention the chapter on "Respiratory Problems" by J. P. Kurlinski and L. Gluck and the chapter on "Neuromuscular Problems" by J. F. Pasternak and J. J. Volpe. Other chapters such as the one on "Growth and Nutrition" is of less interest, at least for the Scandinavian readers. In this chapter the author states among other things: "We do not advise the feeding of human milk to preterm infants ---". Such a statement does not seem justified in light of the otherwhelming data in the literature showing the benefits of human milk feeding, especially in preterm infants. As a whole, however, this book should be of definite interest and usefulness to every physician involved in neonatal medicine.

Niels Räihä

Shaul Harel: *The "at risk" infant*. Excerpta Medica, Amsterdam-Oxford-Princeton 1980. 459 pp. \$80.50. ISBN 90-219-0422-5.

The book contains selected papers from the International Workshop on the "at risk" infant, Tel-Aviv, July 24-31, 1979 International year of the child.

Workshop no. 1, chairman N. J. Anastosiow, USA, has the heading Prospective parents. Practically all the contributions come from USA, one from Israel. Most of the papers are concerned with various programs giving support to teenagers' parents, obviously an overwhelming problem in USA. No paper deals with methods of preventing pregnancy in teenagers. Other papers discuss the problem of parents neglecting and/or maltreating their children. The conclusion is that as active involvement as possible by the parents in the treatment gives the best result. Short papers also review the support, given in USA, to families of handicapped children. Michael M. Kaback gives a good, very condensed, review of methods of screening for carriers of autosomal recessive disorders and for prenatal diagnosis.

Workshop no. 2, chairman L. Stern, USA, has the heading Pregnancy and perinatal period. The chapter contains a mixture of papers dealing with the effect of malnutrition in the neonatal period, neonatal neurology, program for early stimulation, B and T lymphocytes in the neonatal period, lung maturation, perinatal infection, effect of intensive care etc. In this broad, multidisciplinary approach one misses discussions about early contact between parents and child, particularly the handicapped child and the influence on the child of maternal disease or of drug or alcohol misuse by the pregnant mother. The American dominance is not quite so pronounced, for there are about equal numbers of papers from USA, Israel and Europe.

Workshop no. 3, chairman W. K. Frankenburg, USA, has the heading Infancy and early childhood. This chapter contains papers about an epidemiological study of the incidence of handicaps in children in a large, geographically well defined area, about early detection of various handicaps, about measures of habilitation and rehabilitation and the organization of these measures. Child abuse

is a topic also in this chapter. Half the number of the papers reflects the situation in USA, whereas the other half is distributed among Israel and Europe.

Workshop no. 4, chairman T. D. Tjossem, USA, has the heading Standards for socio-ecological community health services. In this chapter authors from various countries present their program for service to children and families with different handicaps. Some papers stress particularly the influence of social factors on the development of handicap in children with low birth weight, others discuss the ethical aspects of active medical measures in severely malformed or damaged newborn infants.

Most of the papers have some interesting aspects. However, they are all condensed, printed lectures and they are not tied together by a surveying discussion. A large part of the book reflects American conditions which cannot always be generalized. The book contains information which is hard to find anywhere else and many isolated points of interest. On the whole, however, it is too much of a mince-pie.

Ingrid Gamstorp

H. Schachter & J.B. Kirsner: *Crohn's disease of the gastrointestinal tract*. 182 pp, illus. John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, England 1980. £15.50. ISBN 0-471-48896-8.

The latest publication in the recent series "Clinical Gastroenterology Monograph Series" is about Crohn's disease. The authors are well-known gastroenterologists from Chicago. The book comprises 182 pages and consists of 17 chapters of varying length and depth. The monograph gets a special character by the fact that the authors use the original paper by Crohn, Ginzburg and Oppenheimer, published in 1932 in *JAMA* 99: 1323-1329, as an introduction. Whilst the book is comparatively small, 182 pages, the authors' intention is to cover the whole subject from epidemiology, to clinical course and prognosis. Each chapter is detailed and has clear figures and tables and also its own references. Two chapters about radiology and pathology have excellent pictures.

Special interest is devoted to etiology and pathogenesis and all current and serious theories and results are presented. The chapter on immunological mechanisms is extensive. A conclusive and personal interpretation of all the data presented there would, however, have been a valuable addition. The attitude to the treatment of Crohn's disease is directed more towards medical than to surgical approaches. The chapter on treatment consists of reports from current studies on various medical as well as surgical treatment regimens, but even in this chapter a more personal interpretation would have been of interest. The risk of recurrence after intestinal resection makes the authors adopt a restrictive attitude to surgery. Two short chapters are devoted to the disease in childhood and pregnancy.

To conclude: this is a short, very comprehensive and well written monograph, which will constitute a ready-to-hand source of information and knowledge for a broad spectrum of physicians, not only gastroenterologists.

Bo Ursing