dealing only with common childhood neurological problems. In general the authors have produced a very useful book which should prove to be attractive to its intended audience.

The book opens with a practical review of neurological history taking and examination techniques referable to the pediatric population. There follows a concise but comprehensive discussion of the various diagnostic techniques currently available in the antenatal diagnosis of neurologic disorders. The remainder of the book consists of 18 chapters dealing with common pediatric neurologic problems, i.e. neural tube defects, neonatal intracranial hemorrhage, neonatal asphyxia and static encephalopathies, neonatal seizures, epilepsy, febrile seizures, neuromuscular disorders, muscular dystrophies, meningitis, encephalitis, Reye Syndrome, para-infectious neurologic disorders, neurocutaneous syndromes, migraine, ataxia, head injuries, increased intracranial pressure and brain tumours. There is, appropriately, no discussion of metabolic and degenerative disorders affecting the nervous system as these are largely the province of the consulting neurologist.

In general, the chapters are succinct and well written. In general only the more common disorders within a category of neurologic disease are discussed. There is a consistency of style and organization between the chapters that make them very easy to follow. There is almost no overlap of information provided by the different authors; in situations where there is common information, e.g. anticonvulsant drug dosages, there is good internal consistency of information. The information provided in this book is nearly always accurate, certainly complete enough for the intended audience, and up to date. I found only one example of incomplete and therefore possibly misleading information: in a table concerned with commonly used antiepileptic drugs, it is mentioned that phenobarbital is available in tablets of 8, 16, 32 and 64 mg, with no mention of the (to my knowledge) more commonly used strengths of 10, 15, 30 and 60 mg. The book is singularly free of typographical errors, there being only one important exception in which the recommended rate of administration of intravenous phenytoin is given as 50 mg/kg.

For the most part the material offered in the various chapters is precisely that which ought to be of most use to pediatricians, family physicians, etc. Exceptions are rare and certainly not enough to deter the average reader. I was somewhat surprised to see that the concise, well-written chapter on the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy contained no mention of benign epilepsy with rolandic spikes, one of the most frequent epileptic syndromes seen in the pediatric age group. On the other hand, the chapter on disorders of the neuromuscular system unaccountably contained a two page table on the distinguishing features of congenital myasthenic syndromes, excellent information for the pediatric neurologist but probably of very little use to the pediatrician or family physician.

On the whole, I found this to be a very good book which achieves its limited aims very well. It should prove to be very useful to general practitioners, family physicians and pediatricians.

Peter Humphreys
Ottawa, Ontario

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE EVALUATION IN NEUROLOGY: CHILDHOOD DISORDERS. First edition. Edited by John K. Darby. Published by Grune & Stratton, Inc. 278 pages. Cdn. $72.00.

The final book in a four-volume compendium, *Speech and Language Evaluation in Neurology: Childhood Disorders* is a clearly and concisely edited work written for neurologists who care for children with communication disorders. Eighteen authors, who are active in the field of language research and clinical application, present various aspects of the overall topic in nine appropriately ordered chapters that are grouped into three sections.

The first section is entitled "Language Disorders". An overview defines basic terminology, discusses theories of language acquisition, provides a diagnostic classification, examines the current understanding regarding the neurologic bases of language disorders in children and outlines the basis of identification, assessment and treatment of language-disordered children. This is followed by an extensive review of the principal language disorders in children, discussing etiology, correlates specific features of the language disorder, management and prognosis for each disorder. A chapter on language disorders after closed head injury in children, the leading cause of aphasia in children, emphasizes that persisting subtle language disturbances are common and show many similarities to deficits identified in adults. A balanced discussion of the controversies surrounding the existence, diagnosis and management of apraxia of speech in children concludes the opening section.

Dysarthria in children is the theme of the second section. A classical neurologic perspective of dysarthria, including the essential neurobiologic basis, is presented in an orderly, anatomical manner, with useful tables of classification and differential diagnosis. Further discussion of the classification of dysarthria, theoretical considerations of speech motor control, clinical characteristics and management strategies are presented by a speech pathologist. The section is completed by a broad overview of the special challenge of multi-handicapped, speech-impaired children.

The final and, appropriately, briefest section addresses the dimensions of genetics in childhood speech and language disorders. It presents data on the genetics of selected developmental language disorders and the preliminary applications of molecular genetics to the study of disorders of communication in children.

This book is high recommended by this reviewer. Given the lack of an adequate and widely accepted classification of language disorders in children, it is not surprising than in a multi-authored book some variations in classification and nomenclature arise. The book is not a comprehensive treatment (for example, dysphonia and dysrhythmias are only alluded to, except for a very brief and incomplete discussion of stuttering in the chapter on molecular genetics) but is rather a collection of readings with some overlap and some variation in perspective, but uniformly written to a medical audience. This book will be particularly helpful for paediatric neurologists along with their adult neurology and paediatric colleagues, especially those involved in developmental, behavioural and rehabilitative specialties.

C.B. Van Orman
Edmonton, Alberta

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0317167100026470 Published online by Cambridge University Press