BOOKS RECEIVED

Fetal and neonatal pathology

Edited by JEAN W KEELING. 1987. Springer-Verlag, London, Berlin. Pp. xvii and 590. £99.00.

This book essentially falls into two parts. The first half deals with perinatal autopsies and examination of placentae, followed by a series of problem-orientated chapters. These work through the subjects of spontaneous abortions, congenital abnormalities, genetic metabolic disease, macerated still births, prematurity, intrapartum damage and hydrops. The second part concentrates on each system in turn, describing its development, both normal and abnormal, and relevant pathology. In addition, there are chapters on immunology, infection and iatrogenic disease.

The book is primarily designed for those providing a perinatal autopsy service but would also be of use to obstetricians, paediatricians and microbiologists concerned with this field. Of particular interest to microbiologists would be the section on infection in pregnancy and

the neonatal period. This chapter is well laid out, methodically working through the common viral, parasitic and bacterial infections that produce adverse effects. For most infections, the incidence in the UK and USA is first discussed followed by an account of the possible sequelae. Tables are used effectively to highlight important aspects rather than merely numerical data and include subjects such as rubella-induced defects in infants infected at successive stages of pregnancy, routes of transmission for perinatal infection, development of neonatal faecal flora and signs and symptoms present in babies born to toxoplasma-infected mothers. Notes are included on the interpretation of serological tests in the neonatal period and the best methods and sites for demonstrating the organisms. For the histopathologist, there is an additional useful discussion of the best tissue samples to be taken for detecting the commoner systemic infections.

This book is well organised, contains an excellent range and quality of illustrations, an abundance of relevant references and will be of great use to those involved in fetal and perinatal pathology at all levels.

SUSAN DILLY