

romuscular anomalies, clinical characteristics of neuromuscular anomalies of the eyes, and principles of therapy.

This volume is intended neither to be a systematic guide for an approach to the strabismic patient nor a historically complete expert perspective and judgment of important steps, taken clinically and in the laboratory, toward the understanding of ocular alignment and motility. Although not easy to read, this text would be of considerable value to the student of ocular motility and its disorders, from the ophthalmologist in training to the established practitioner.

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**Chemically Induced Birth Defects**, vol 2 of the Drug and Chemical Toxicology series, by James L. Schardein, New York, Marcel Dekker, 1985, 904 pp, \$125.00.

This volume is an extensive review of the current state of knowledge about the teratogenic effects of drugs and chemicals. One of the most important services provided by many genetic clinics and birth defect clinics is counseling before and during pregnancy regarding the risk of potentially teratogenic exposure to chemicals and drugs. To facilitate information gathering, a book such as this is indispensable.

The first chapter provides an excellent introduction to the field of teratology. It introduces the basic principles of teratogenesis, manifestations of deviant development, the use of animal models to assess human risk, and the evaluation of human risk. The remainder of the book is divided into two major parts. The first part covers drugs and includes 19 chapters dealing with various categories of drug types, such as cardiovascular renal drugs, anesthetics, hormones and hormone antagonists, and gastrointestinal drugs. The second part deals with chemicals and is also divided by classes, such as pesticides, metals, and industrial solvents. This method of organization is particularly useful to the reader who wants a general overview of each category of drugs, as well as individual compounds. Each chapter contains excellent tables and an extensive bibliography. The book is well indexed so that information about specific drugs or chemicals can be easily located. However, the latest references are from 1983, although the volume was published in 1985. Thus, there is a notable shortcoming in that the chemical teratogenic effects of isotretinoin (Accutane), the anti-acne drug, are only briefly mentioned. Also, the pictures, generally, are of poor quality, and the print is difficult to read. In addition, the author has used several misleading examples of the

effects of drugs and chemicals. The camptomelic syndrome is given as an example of the result of maternal use of oral contraceptives early in pregnancy. While this may be a possibility, most cases of this syndrome appear to be recessively inherited (i.e., most of the cases are genetic and not teratogenic). To suggest otherwise, I believe, is inaccurate.

*Chemically Induced Birth Defects* is an excellent book, particularly because of its useful tables and extensive bibliography. It should be included as an information source in most hospital and medical school libraries and for those individuals who find themselves doing teratology-related counseling or research.

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**The Pediatric Spine**, ed by David S. Bradford and Robert Hensinger, New York, Thieme-Stratton, 1985, 533 pp, \$80.00.

This book has been written by authors who are internationally known in their respective fields. The editors, David S. Bradford, who is best known for his work on the spine, and Robert Hensinger, who is a well-respected pediatric orthopedist, have chosen authors to write about topics that comprehensively cover all aspects of the pediatric spine from the development of the vertebral column to the most up-to-date methods of spinal surgery. After a general introductory section, the authors deal with inflammation, trauma, tumors, spinal deformity, spondylolisthesis, and various techniques in spinal surgery. Only the most recent developments in certain aspects of spinal instrumentation are not discussed.

In spite of the number of different chapters by different authors, there is remarkably little overlap. Each chapter is clear and concise and gives a summary of the condition, both historically and with a review of the literature. The clinical features, investigations, and management are outlined and a description of the authors' preferred treatment, if applicable, are a part of each chapter.

Although most figures are radiographs of the spine, each author has managed to choose representative views that are of good quality and the points made in the text can be observed on these figures.

I would recommend this textbook as a must for the libraries of all orthopedic surgeons, pediatric surgeons, and pediatricians.

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