papers. This approach inhibits the expression of wider reaching ideas, and the book will be more useful to those wanting information on specific points than to the reader seeking either an introduction or a guide to progress in the field as a whole. It is therefore a pity that a more detailed index has not been provided.

The pace of hepatitis research shows no sign of slackening, and no doubt reprints are already accumulating in Professor Zuckerman's files for the next edition. Only the very rich will therefore want to purchase such an expensive volume themselves rather than use it for reference in their institution's library.

YVONNE COSSART

Nuclear Medicine in Clinical Pediatrics. Edited by Hirsch Handmaker and Jerold M. Lowenstein. (Pp. 296; illustrated; $22.50.) New York: The Society of Nuclear Medicine. 1975.

It is only a few years since radiotherapists used to query the use of radioisotope tests in patients undergoing deep *x*-ray therapy. It is interesting that one can now write a volume exclusively on the use of radioisotope tests in children, most with benign conditions. Nevertheless caution is still very much in order and therefore this book is a welcome addition to the literature since it neatly sets out the indications, applications, and limitations of nuclear medicine procedures in the paediatric situation.

The particular problem of potential radiation hazards is clearly set out in a 22-page chapter concentrating on radiobiology and dosimetry. It briefly reviews the potential hazards and quite rightly points to the necessity of keeping to the lowest level which will produce an answer rather than the lowest possible level. As in all medical situations the risk of a procedure must be balanced against the benefit. The chapter is particularly valuable in that it gives an easy reference for risk estimates, thyroid dose, and radiation doses from specific radiopharmaceuticals in children according to weight. In addition, at the end of the book are more useful tables of suggested radionuclide activities for paediatric procedures, as well as other tables giving blood volumes and organ weights related to body weight or age.

The main part of the book consists of 12 chapters, each on an individual organ dealing in a very practical manner with the diseases encountered in children and their appropriate radioisotope functional or imaging tests. Although similar information is available in many of the numerous textbooks available nowadays, it is convenient to have the information so clearly set out and well illustrated. Unusually in a multi-author volume, the presentation is relatively uniform. Inevitably there are a few gaps but these do not detract from the overall favourable impression. It should appeal to the general physician and surgeon as well as to those involved in radioisotope diagnosis and paediatrics.

V. R. MCCREADY

The Principles of Human Biochemical Genetics, 2nd revised edition. By Harry Harris. (Pp. xiv + 473; illustrated; $20.50.) Amsterdam: North-Holland Publishing Company. 1975.

When the first edition of this book appeared five years ago it became obvious that it was going to be an extremely valuable introduction to the subject of human biochemical genetics. This thoroughly revised and expanded second edition lives up fully to the very high standard set by its predecessor.

The object of Professor Harris' book is to describe both normal and abnormal gene action and to relate primary gene action to the various inherited disorders in man. Starting with a chapter on gene mutations and single amino-acid substitutions, successive chapters deal with the one-gene-one-polypeptide chain principle, the molecular mechanisms of gene duplications, deletions and abnormal crossing over, and genetic mutations which affect the rate of protein synthesis. Subsequent chapters deal with qualitative and quantitative variations of enzymes, inborn errors of metabolism, the blood group substances, and population genetics. The book is beautifully written, and complex concepts are presented with great clarity. There are many excellent illustrations and it is right up to date with many references from the year of publication.

On looking through the index of this book it is interesting to reflect just how much has been learned about gene action from careful studies on inherited diseases, particularly those of the blood. Because the book is so clinically orientated it makes a superb introduction to the field of human biochemical genetics for all workers in clinical and laboratory specialities. The author and publishers cannot be praised too highly for this excellent publication; it remains by far the best introduction to the difficult and complex field of human genetics.

D. J. WEATHERALL

Notice

A New Nomenclature

A task force appointed by the International Committee on Thrombosis and Haemostasis has recommended to the Committee the adoption of a new nomenclature for the 'factor-VIII-related-activities'. An 'on-the-line' system of nomenclature has been recommended for the three major classes of activities related to blood coagulation factor VIII, that is, VIII:C (for the coagulant activity), VIIIR:AG (for the antigenic activities related to factor VIII), and VIIIR:WF (for the 'von Willebrand factor' activities related to factor VIII).

Adoption of these recommendations, which are at present before the International Committee, will be deferred for at least one year while the task force receives and considers suggestions for modification.

Anyone who wishes a copy of the full report or wishes to make suggestions to the task force should contact its chairman:

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