of Birmingham but this in no way impairs their validity.

There is a veritable mine of information in this book which is more than adequately referenced. Indeed some criticism is due in parts which have become little more than reviews of the literature, thus in support of the statement that infants of low birth weight have a high incidence of physical and mental defects some eighteen references are listed in the text. In spite of this awareness of the literature some statements must occasion comment. The implication that low birth weight babies may be born at home with a specially trained nurse in attendance for resuscitation, is appalling and is it seriously contended that several layers of gauze should be placed over the moribund infant's airway before mouth to mouth resuscitation begins?

Although most of the appropriate measures for resuscitation are listed, little sense of order or urgency is imparted. For example, it is not clear whether immediate intubation of the newborn is ever advocated. Among subsequently described therapeutic measures the suggestion that intravenous therapy of acidosis might be undertaken without plasma bicarbonate determinations is surely no longer acceptable. In many instances the author fails to give a clear indication of what ought to be done but instead lists alternative methods that might be applied if this or that piece of equipment is lacking. This may be acceptable in a textbook for trainee midwives who will have to contend with conditions in the home, but should not be acceptable in a standard work on the premature. It is a shameful comment on domiciliary obstetric practice in this country that babies continue to be born in surroundings lacking elementary equipment and attended by personnel unable to apply modern resuscitative measures. Until these practices are roundly condemned by authors with the stature of Dr Crosse then we must continue to accept avoidable morbidity and perhaps mortality in the newly born.

With regard to the administration of the special care unit it is evident that the long personal experience of the author has been instilled into much of the text. However, the reviewer found the illustration on page 43 of a mother peering at her baby through the observation panel of a closed nursery door, ‘as parents cannot be admitted’, to be pathetic.

This is a useful book for those being introduced to the subject and it will doubtless find its place in the instruction of pupil midwives. It is to be hoped that a further edition will not be unduly delayed so that this rapidly changing subject can be presented in an up-to-date form.

**Child Health and Development, 4th edn**


This is the fourth edition of this book which is intended to bring together all the information concerning child health which is widely scattered among various disciplines. It is not clear for which group of readers this book is intended although the flyleaf indicates that it is intended to complement the ‘usual’ textbooks on paediatrics (whichever they might be) and also for postgraduate study.

There are eighteen contributors drawn largely from Scottish centres. The book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with development from the ovum to adolescence including chapters on behaviour and emotional development. The second part is concerned with the various social agencies with which the child may have to contend—the School Health Service, Child Guidance, Juvenile Courts and the rest.

The overall impression is that this book fails to achieve its objectives by having too many contributors dealing with too wide a field. Child health in the tropics, for example, could almost form a basis for a separate book and is really out of place in a text which deals with the niceties of English legislation and its Scottish variants.

Many of the chapters are remarkably compressed and perhaps the editor is to be congratulated in assembling so much information within the compass of one volume. Regrettably the chapters remain separate in their approach and style so that it is doubtful whether the uninitiated reader will perceive Child Health as a whole rather than a potpourri of contributions from widely separated disciplines.

Although well printed and reasonably priced the illustrations are of poor quality. Perhaps this book will be of value to postgraduates from overseas who wish to acquire some knowledge of the social services in Britain that are relevant to children.

**Brain Tumors: Their Biology and Pathology**


This work originally appeared in German in 1951, written by one of the most eminent representatives of the German school of neuropathologists and its success is attested by the fact that three further editions have subsequently been published. The first edition in English appeared in 1951 and this, the second, is a translation of the fourth German edition.

The book provides a comprehensive description of cerebral tumours, and provides much information on their natural history and clinical features as well as on the more strictly pathological aspects. It is very much a 'personal' work and is based to a considerable extent on the author's extensive experience in this field, although some of his interpretations will not be accepted by all neuropathologists. The book is well supplied with references and of particular value is the access provided to the German literature. The present edition includes results derived from recent work on experimental pathology, histochemistry and electron microscopy. This has, in general, not been integrated with the rest of the text but appended in the form of additional sections.