

and disability, and the various aspects of disadvantage (handicap), such as economic self sufficiency and social integration, that can arise.

The survey used similar methods to others of the genre, but it also included additional investigations, notably a longitudinal element, and there is an interesting chapter which examines the methods, as well as the results of this aspect of the survey. Readers will obtain a rare opportunity to consider the dynamics of disability in the community, although a more detailed examination of these dynamics and their implications for service delivery would have strengthened this chapter considerably.

The epidemiological or "community" dimensions of disability is only really found in the introductory chapters, and for example David Locker's chapter on coping with disability and handicap focuses on a small group of people disabled by rheumatoid arthritis. This is not to deny the value of the different insights offered, but those looking for a community wide perspective would find it difficult to translate some of the information to that level. The book is perhaps best viewed as a "reader" for disability in the community, as the chapters (and some show their origins as previously published papers) are best viewed as separate insights into the different dimensions of disability and handicap.

ALAN TENNANT

**Prospects for Primary and Secondary Prevention of Cervix Cancer.** (Cancer Surveys, vol 7, No 3.) Eds EG Knox, C Woodman. (Pp 200; £26.50.) Oxford University Press, 1988. ISBN 0261-2429

With the recent upsurge of interest in the establishment of effective cervix cancer screening has come the recognition that an organised multidisciplinary approach is needed, integrating the epidemiological, behavioural, clinical and laboratory aspects of screening. Too often, experts in any one of these areas are unaware of developments in the others, and it is difficult for those responsible for organising screening programmes to obtain an overview of all these aspects. This issue of Cancer Surveys should help to remedy these deficiencies, though a disappointing omission is the lack of any social science perspective on participation in screening.

The first part of the book is concerned with epidemiological and organisational aspects of cervix cancer screening, beginning with a sensible introduction by the editors, indicating that technical advances in the various areas do not automatically lead to an effective screening programme. This is followed by a very complex chapter by the same authors, measuring the effectiveness of cervix cancer screening using statistical modelling, which would probably be beyond the understanding of most readers. Hakama and Louhivuori have contributed a valuable chapter on the effective population based Finnish programme, which provides useful lessons for other countries. (Some gremlins seem to have converted Matti Hakama to "she" in the biographical notes). The chapter by Cuzick and Boyle provides interesting and detailed data on trends in cervix cancer mortality by age for 15 different countries from 1950-1985.

The second half of the book is concerned

mainly with basic laboratory research, including a chapter on recent work in developing biological markers for predicting progression of preinvasive lesions, two (largely historical) chapters on the role of herpes simplex virus, which make interesting reading in view of the current interest in human papilloma virus (HPV), and another on the possible role of Epstein-Barr virus. Three chapters on HPV provide a useful summary of current work in this area. The excellent and balanced chapter by Meanwell on the epidemiology of HPV should be required reading for all clinicians. The book concludes with a comprehensive summary of treatment of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia, including pretreatment assessment, treatment options, and management of treatment failure.

This book would be a useful resource for anyone working in cervix cancer screening. For the most part it is straightforward and readable, and it provides information which is not usually readily available in one source.

JUDITH STRATON

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## Short Reviews

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**Perinatal and Multigeneration Carcinogenesis.** (IARC Scientific Publication No 96.) Eds NP Napalkov, JM Rice, L Tomatis, H Yamasaki. (Pp 436; £48.00.) International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, 1989. ISBN 92-832-1196-0.

The possible effects of perinatal exposure to carcinogens are among a number of research topics in which IARC has been heavily involved. This present book comprises the proceedings of a meeting on this subject held in Leningrad in 1988 in which the purpose was to discuss the present state of research from the perspective of a variety of disciplines—epidemiology, pathology, biochemistry and molecular biology. This multidisciplinary approach is reflected in the content of the book, which is divided into three sections: (1) experimental carcinogenesis: models; (2) experimental carcinogenesis: mechanisms; and (3) studies related to direct observations in humans. This latter epidemiological section includes overviews of studies concerned with exposure to chemicals, diethylstilboestrol, and ionising radiation. This is a useful book for those interested in this aspect of epidemiology.

**Foetus into Man. Physical Growth from Conception to Maturity.** JM Tanner (Pp 280; £6.00.) Castlemead Publications, 1989. ISBN 0-948555-23-8.

This is the second edition of a book which was first published in 1977 and describes the process of growth in children. Although parts of the book are concerned with biological and endocrinological aspects, much emphasis is given to epidemiological issues. The book is attractive in presentation and the author has undoubtedly produced a book which "the

biologically unsophisticated reader will understand and the biologically sophisticated approve". It may therefore be an appropriate book for epidemiologists and those interested in community child health who wish an authoritative, but not indigestible, treatise on normal growth.

**Clinical Effects of Environmental Chemicals. A Software Approach to Etiological Diagnosis.** RD Kimbrough, KR Mahaffey, P Grandjean, S-H Sandoe, DD Rutstein. (Pp 110; £36.00.) Hemisphere Publishing Corporation, 1989. ISBN 0-89116-921-0.

With intoxications due to environmental chemicals, the causative substances are frequently hard to identify from a patient's exposure history. Even when exposure information is obtained, several chemicals may be involved, or the composition of the chemical products may be unknown. In such cases the clinical picture can be an important guide to the aetiological diagnosis. Following an introductory overview of the subject, this book is divided into three parts: the first provides an alphabetical listing of environmental chemicals and describes the symptoms and signs associated with each. The second part provides a list of symptoms and signs and describes the chemicals which may be an aetiological factor for each. The third part comprises a comprehensive list of references of the clinical effects of individual chemicals. Thus this book is essentially a useful reference text. A floppy disk is also enclosed so that the reference system may be accessed on computer if preferred.

**Dioxins and Furans.** T Paddock. (Pp 113; \$10.00.) Academy of Sciences, Philadelphia, 1989. ISBN 0-910006-08-3.

This booklet consists of a comprehensive, concise and easy to read review of scientific information on dioxins and furans. It includes a short history of the incidents and issues that have made dioxin a household word and discusses how dioxins and furans are regulated. It is fully indexed and annotated and should be of interest to those concerned with environmental health.

F G R FOWKES

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## NOTICES

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**Health related quality of life: the European group for the Nottingham Health Profile**

The European group for the Nottingham Health Profile (NHP) has been in existence for three years. Its purpose is to refine a method for the translation and retesting of the Nottingham Health Profile in European languages.

The group produces country specific versions of the NHP and is currently working