Structural Fetal Abnormalities. The Total Picture. Edited by Roger C Saunders. (Pp 283, £42.50 paperback.) ISBN 0-8151-7838-7.

I liked this book. It has successfully combined background information concerning a variety of fetal abnormalities with good quality ultrasound pictures. Although there are 13 contributors to this work, the format for each abnormality is consistent and logical. Each has a section on embryology/genetics, the sonographic features, and management in pregnancy. The last is probably the least relevant as this book obviously has a North American bias, but even so the views expressed are useful and the outlines for further investigations easily traverse the "pond".

The mixture of decent images, relevant pathological material, and line drawings is particularly good, and each section is well referenced, with some of them taken from 1994, so the book is fairly current. An appendix on Smith's approach to differential diagnosis should prove handy. A compendium of the ultrasound features of several common conditions is also included.

Who will find this book useful? I suspect almost anyone who is engaged in obstetric ultrasonography, particularly in the context of fetal abnormalities. It is not a reference

book, but, rather, a practical guide. It may help those who need confirmation and knowledge about some of the more common abnormalities, such as neural tube or anterior wall defects. But it will also be useful for rare conditions. Current databases, such as POS-SUM, do not necessarily lend themselves to antenatal diagnostic problems and although others, such as PLATYPUS, should be more relevant, little books such as this one, will prove a useful starting point.

I think this book should be available to all practising ultrasonographers: I am sure they will enjoy it and find it well worth the money.

MARTIN J WHITTLE
Professor of Fetal Medicine
Birmingham Maternity Hospital

Surgery of the Newborn. Edited by Neil V Freeman *et al* (Pp 824, £125 hardback). Churchill Livingstone, 1994. ISBN 0443043469.

Although taking the place of older neonatal surgical text books, *Surgery of the Newborn* goes into more detail on the organisation of neonatal surgical units, transportation of babies and antenatal diagnosis, and the possibility of fetal surgery. There is emphasis on parental involvement and information on

practical issues, such as types of teat necessary for use in children with cleft palates. An excellent chapter on ethics is important in today's climate. A useful addition is the chapter on surgical problems in neonatal medical units.

A reference text book, it has an international flavour with authors from many countries; North and South America, South Africa, Australia, the Far East, and Europe as well as the United Kingdom. Despite this the editors have maintained a uniform style. The references include both older, classic, and up to date references as far as 1994.

There are useful flow charts throughout as to how to deal with different problems. Different operations are given for each diagnosis, not just the conventional one or that favoured by the authors. I wonder why there is a chapter on achalasia of oesophagus as this is exceedingly rare in neonates. There is also a chapter on ENT problems. I found three separate classifications for oesophageal atresia confusing.

The book is relevant for all paediatricians, paediatric surgeons, and any surgeon who has to deal with neonates.

CAROLINE DOIG
Senior lecturer in paediatric surgery
Booth Hall Children's Hospital, Manchester