conjunction with a training programme where anaesthesia of children is taught and closely supervised by experienced specialists. The high price obviously reflects the relationship of the pound to the dollar, but nevertheless, this book can be highly recommended for all postgraduates training in paediatric anaesthesia and should be available in casualty departments, operating theatres and intensive care units which treat children.

T.R. Abbott,
*Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital,
Liverpool L7 7DG.*

Neonatal Behavioural Assessment Scale. Second edition, T. Berry Brazelton. Clinics in Developmental Medicine. No. 88. Pp.x + 125, 1984. Spastics International Medical Publications, London (Blackwell Scientific Publications). Philadelphia (J.B. Lippincott). £7.50.

The Neonatal Behavioural Assessment Scale (NBAS) developed by Brazelton assesses the infant's own capacity to manage his behaviour in response to external manipulation. The normal newborn has an ability to sort out or handle stimuli by changing state to a habituated or sleep state but if an infant has too low a threshold for intake of stimuli (hypersensitivity), or too disorganised a response to stimuli, he may be at the mercy of his environment. The ability of the newborn to cope with and control overactions may be quite psychophysiological costly.

Since the original publication of the scale 11 years ago experience has shown it to be valuable but it has needed reevaluation. This second edition explains and explores refinements and revisions of the original system of 27 items and also contains 9 supplementary items for use on particularly vulnerable babies e.g. the preterm infant. There is also a new section dealing with the training of examiners in the technique and the use of the NBAS in research. A valuable book for neonatologists and developmental paediatricians even if they do not themselves use the scales.

Neil McIntosh,
*Department of Paediatrics,
St George's Hospital,
London SW17 0RE.*

Recent Advances in Occupational Health. No. 2 edited by J.M. Harrington, Pp.x + 283, Illustrated, Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1984. £28.00.

This is the second volume to be published in this series on occupational health in three years, which was perhaps a little soon after the excellent first volume. The contents cover a wide range of topics and are divided into five parts subtitled work hazards, investigative methods, environmental control, socio-economic aspects and a short final section 'controversy' with a chapter on the health effects of phenoxy acid herbicides and one on ethics in occupational medicine.

While containing many good review chapters on current topics and problems in occupational health practice, much of the content cannot be considered, in the stricter sense of the words, to represent 'recent advances'. There are chapters on the expanding applications of genetic manipulation under the heading of the biotechnology industry, chapters on the modern chemical industry, on nautical medicine and on indoor air quality. A chapter in the same section on occupational dermatoses gives a brief review of this important cause of sickness absence, but contributes no advance in theory or practice. Under the heading of investigative methods there is an interesting contribution on the estimation of exposure in occupational cancer epidemiology, but the chapter on the injured back gives little reference to the investigative procedures adopted in current research on back pain. There are chapters on the often overlooked field of health education at the workplace and on the only recently realised effects of unemployment on health. Throughout, the emphasis is on the effects of work on health, the effects of health on the ability to work have received little consideration. Some consideration of the implications of the proposed Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulations would have been useful, but the Health and Safety Executive's draft discussion document may have appeared too late to be included.

However this volume offers much interesting reading to practitioners in the field of occupational health, and the editor, as he puts it in his preface, need fear no lack of consumer demand.

G. Kazantzis
*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
London WC1E 7HT*