standard and is generally well referenced. I have no hesitation in recommending this book to all with an interest in child health.

C J HOBBS

Recent Advances in Epilepsy. Vol 2. Edited by T A Pedley, B S Meldrum. Pp 344; £30.00 hardback. Churchill Livingstone, 1985.

This volume provides a useful and readable survey of advances in the theoretical and practical aspects of epilepsy. It begins with two chapters on the basic physiology of epilepsy which lead on logically to an account of the newer imaging techniques—positive emission tomography, single photon emission computed tomography, and nuclear magnetic resonance, and how the first two can examine brain function during and between seizures. It is a pity the pictures reproduced are not of higher quality.

There are six chapters on aspects of drug treatment of epilepsy. Two are thoughtful reviews on starting and stopping anticonvulsants. Cognitive effects, and serum monitoring of anticonvulsants are reviewed, and there is a helpful account of the benzodiazepines. There is a detailed and practical approach to the management of status epilepticus, though British readers may be surprised to see no mention of chlormethiazole. Other subjects reviewed are neonatal seizures, reflex seizures (photosensitive and reading epilepsy), psychogenic seizures (more commonly called pseudoseizures), and surgery.

The authors are predominantly American, and the book is concerned with epilepsy in general rather than specifically childhood aspects. Epilepsy is most common in childhood, however, and every chapter of this book is directly relevant to the problems of epilepsy in childhood. It is an excellent source of up to date information, advice, and references.

ROGER ROBINSON

Pediatric Sports Medicine for the Practitioner. From Physiologic Principles to Clinical Applications. (Comprehensive Manuals in Pediatrics). By O Bar-Or. Pp 376; \$38.10 hardback. Springer-Verlag, 1983.

You may consider sports medicine to be represented as orthopaedic surgeons and physiotherapists treating injuries sustained during other people's unnecessary participation in enjoyable, and sometimes risky pursuits, at your expense. You may think that paediatric sports medicine is about other countries' eight year old marathon runners and gymnasts being treated for stress fractures and receiving drugs which will lead to premature death. If that is so, and you do not like it, you can still enjoy and learn from this book, as it omits completely that side of sports medicine. What then is it about? Well, as paediatricians do you know about the physiological responses to exercise in healthy children? Do you know anything about the exercise capacity, exercise as a diagnostic tool, and the exercise conditioning effects in asthma, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes mellitus,

anorexia nervosa, malnutrition, obesity, epilepsy, anaemia, and haemophilia? Or, perhaps in other words, what advice do you give regarding how much exercise can be done by your patients with these conditions, and how much exercise may help or hinder their conditions and their psychological reaction to them?

If like me you know little about the subject and answer most questions without firm scientific basis, offering limited, spontaneous, and generally not well founded advice, then there is much to be gained from reading this book. Although I have come across some of the content in original journals and magazines, this has been a small amount compared with what is gathered together and available here. The content is of necessity relatively narrow, though covering most of the chronic conditions we see in our everyday practice. The chapters are of standard format and well laid out so that one can quickly find relevant sections dealing with practical aspects of the subject which we can apply to our practice.

Clearly, it is a small part of our practice generally, but perhaps that extent should be determined by our patients rather than by the limits of our vision. Reading this book will certainly increase your awareness of the scope for using exercise as therapy, and of problems which relate to exercise in your practice. Like many good but expensive specialist books, however, it will not be bought by paediatricians, and reasonably so. Every good library should have a copy though!

G W RYLAND