This fairly expensive book is packed with useful information and would be good for reference in the side room and possibly for postgraduate students.

C A S GALLOWAY

Clinical Reviews in Pediatric Infectious Disease. Edited by J D Nelson, G H McCracken Jr. Pp 315: £44.00 hardback. C V Mosby (Blackwell Scientific), 1985.

The editorial intention is to offer a bridge between the standard textbook and the journal literature with a collection of revised essays from the early issues of *Pediatric Infectious Disease*. There are informative sections on the prevention of infection and on infections in the compromised host, with particular emphasis on the child with cancer, before discussion of selected antimicrobial agents and selected diseases. The book concludes with a brief review of rapid laboratory diagnostic aids to infection.

The prophylactic use of both antibiotics and vaccines is discussed, with clear statements of the present state of knowledge and practical clinical advice, relevant to the general paediatricians as well as to the infectious disease specialist. A sense of proportion is maintained, with discussion ranging from the benefits of careful hand-washing to the possibilities of future advance in the field of bacterial vaccines.

The review of antimicrobial agents includes a useful guide through the confusion of the third generation cephalosporins, a balanced comparison of the anti-pseudomonas penicillins, and an excellent directive on how best to use chloramphenicol.

Those articles reviewing selected diseases and conditions cover a wide and disparate range and will not be of interest to all. The treatment of problems such as urinary tract infection and diarrhoea vie for space with discussion of tularaemia and botulism in infancy. The closing review does not adequately explain the laboratory tests discussed.

Important subjects are covered in greater depth than in the average textbook, and there is much informative reading. I doubt, however, if all the articles will achieve the editors' aim of being a standard reference work for several years.

S P CONWAY

Iatrogenic Disorders of the Fetus, Infant and Child. Vol 1. Radiology of Iatrogenic Disorders Series. Edited by E G Kassner. Pp 401: DM440 hardback. Springer-Verlag, 1985.

In a series under the title 'Radiology of Iatrogenic Disorders' it says something for paediatrics that it has been necessary to present two volumes. This, the first

volume, covers complications of investigative procedures; diagnostic radiology, angiography, and invasive neurodiagnostic studies, followed by iatrogenic disorders in the fetus, in the perinatal period, and of neonatal intensive care. Drugs, nutrition, immunisations, and the treatment of childhood cancer complete the volume.

The book is liberally illustrated, and the reproduction of radiographs is excellent. Some sections have the same fascination that the annual reports of the medical defence societies have, but this is far more than just a catalogue of disasters. There is a detailed explanation of the radiographic features of every problem, which will be of special interest to radiologists. Each chapter presents a detailed historical and epidemiological review of conditions requiring investigation and management. Some horrifying examples are presented that make one feel that it should be compulsory reading not only for paediatricians but for cardiologists and surgeons as well. Each chapter is concluded by a full reference list that is reason enough for every department to purchase a copy, though for this purpose if the references were compiled in alphabetical order they would be much easier to refer to.

This is a most comprehensive description of paediatric iatrogenic disorders, but at over £100 it may be confined to library shelves to be referred to from time to time.

ANDREW WILKINSON