ings' that accompany each chapter at least half are for publications that are more than 10 years old. While the author has written a book that is aimed at those in primary care, and may have been one of the first to do so, it is very difficult to see that this is going to truly enlighten. Sadly I fear that it will only confuse.

GWILYM P HOSKING

Manual of Paediatric Emergencies. Edited by J R Zanga. Pp 511: £32.00 paperback. Churchill Livingstone, 1987.

The subjects in this book were selected from experience with the major presenting problems found in a busy city emergency paediatric unit in the United States. The sections on cardiopulmonary resuscitation, major medical, surgical, and traumatic emergencies, and child abuse are excellent. Common presenting symptoms for medical conditions, such as headache and abdominal pain, are barely mentioned. The lack of information on minor injuries is also significant. At least 50% of children presenting to the urban accident and emergency departments in the United Kingdom have had minor trauma, but many important aspects in this area of work — for example, hand injuries and epiphyseal injuries — are not included in the clinical sections of the book.

The manual is valuable for the diagnosis and management of children presenting with major illness or injury, but has limited value as the 'ready reference book . . . designed for the emergency department.' Several more comprehensive books already fulfil this role.

W J ROBSON

Respiratory Disorders of Infants and Children. Jan A Kuzemko. Pp 101: £14.50 paperback. Castle House, 1987.

This book starts with useful revision chapters on the basic anatomy, embryology, and physiology of the respiratory tract. Of the remaining 13 chapters several are too brief to be very useful and are little more than lists. The chapter on symptoms and signs I found vaguely irritating; for example, the author says that the word 'stridor' causes confusion and should be abolished, but he fails to suggest an alternative and proceeds to continue to use the word himself.

The chapter on upper respiratory tract infections is good; it is practical, detailed, and helpful especially the section on epiglottitis and viral 'croup'. Similarly, there is much that is good in the chapter on asthma, as one would expect from an author with a known special interest in the subject. It is disappointing, however, to see him perpetuate the teaching that only 2–5% of children have asthma rather than the 10–15% that is now generally accepted. He lists seven possible investigations of varying degrees of complexity without any guidance as to how appropriate any of them would be in the every day clinical management of asthma.

This rather theoretical approach is a drawback for a book that purports to be aimed at the primary care physician. Similarly, any general practitioner reading this book would have a negative reaction on seeing immune deficiency, α_1 antitrypsin deficiency, and collagen diseases included in a list of 'Common causes of wheezing'. Overall, I would regard this as very much a 'curate's egg' of a book, whether the reader is a medical student, general practitioner, or paediatrician.

A N P SPEIGHT

Fetal and Neonatal Pathology. Edited by Jean W Keeling. Pp 590: £99 hardback. Springer-Verlag, 1987.

After many years of drought we are now being presented with new books on children's pathology every few months, and I suspect that there is not a paediatric pathologist who is not writing a chapter for somebody's book at this moment! This book has one major author-editor with many others contributing chapters. About half the book is on general topics such as perinatal autopsy, the placenta, and examination of the fetus; and the rest is on the pathologies of organs and systems. The standards of the different sections varies greatly. The naked eye pictures are generally good but the microphotographs are very variable and often poor.

The data presented is insufficient for a specialist pathologist and the whole is aimed at the general pathologist who deals with fetal and perinatal deaths. It is insufficient to enable the general pathologist to deal with infantile diseases such as Hirschsprung's disease, but gives an indication of the procedures involved. It would enable him to diagnose hyaline membranes but he would know less about the factors of their

production or of effects of intensive care on the newborn lung than does the paediatric neonatologist. There is much internal cross referencing but for the non-specialist the index could have been made wider; the inclusion of 'congenital megacolon' or simply 'megacolon' would have helped in the finding of 'Hirschsprung's Disease'.

To say that a book is good in parts is not to label it a 'curate's egg.' This book gives the general pathologist a rapid and convenient insight into the pathologies of this age group. It is recommended for inclusion in the libraries of general hospitals and of paediatric departments.

J L EMERY

Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes Mellitus. S J Brink. Pp 454: £34.00 paperback. Year Book Medical Publishers, 1987.

This book provides a comprehensive overview of paediatric diabetic management from an American perspective. The editor and main author, Dr Brink, draws on his experience gained in part as senior staff paediatrician at the Joslin Clinic and combines a critical approach to clinical practice with a strong awareness of psychological issues and a great respect for the child with diabetes and their families. In addition, data from the youth registry set up by Dr Brink and including clinical information on over 1000 young patients (aged 1–21 years) are used as a basis for the management policies advocated.

The book is laid out in three sections: Part I is a practical manual of care; Part II covers new theories, treatments, and associated problems; and Part III discusses preventative medicine and counselling. I found the middle section most successful; the contributions on epidemiology, genetics, and immunology provide a concise up to date summary and excellent advice is provided on the prevention and management of ketoacidosis and on sensible dietary guidelines. The final section on preventative medicine and counselling draws on theories of normal child development to discuss methods of managing the psychosocial aspects of diabetes; much good sense here tends to get lost in the jargon.

The section on practical management covers chapters for children under 5 years, 5–9 years, and the 10–21 year age groups separately. Each part is followed by a psychosocial commentary written by a psychologist or social worker. The sections are designed to be used independently and as a