

that in some of the key early sections of the book there were no colour photographs of the retina in a subject that so perfectly and importantly lends itself to colour illustration. How frustrating to find then right at the back of the book a series of gorgeous coloured photographs tucked away as colour plates out of context.

This is a book for the library and not for the individual paediatrician. But, perhaps of greater importance, it might be taken as a challenge to British neonatal medicine and neonatal ophthalmology to define our own database and current state of good clinical practice in the prevention and management of retinopathy of prematurity.

DAVID BAUM

**Recent Advances in Paediatrics.** Vol 8. Edited by R Meadow. Pp 284: £28.00 hardback. Churchill Livingstone, 1986.

'Recent advances in paediatrics' is now in its eighth edition and Roy Meadow has again put together 15 chapters of topical interest to bring us up to date in various fields. As always, the reader will find more of interest in one chapter than another but on this occasion he will find most subjects of practical everyday importance, and there will be something new to be learnt in most.

The acquired immune deficiency syndrome starts off the book and Drs Jones and Watson give a comprehensive review of the subject up to the time the manuscript was written. The field is changing so rapidly that perhaps a short update should also be included in the next edition. The same applies to the third chapter on growth hormone deficiency, again a rapidly developing field where growth hormone is being considered for differing groups of patients. Professor Milner and Dr King have carefully reviewed their subject, although I feel that the section on anthropometry was perhaps a little short compared with the amount of space related to biochemical tests.

The chapters on single dose treatment of urinary tract infection, neonatal jaundice, hearing screening in the newborn, near miss cot death, and idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura were all excellent, with up to date information and practical advice. They should be read by all practising paediatricians. Those chapters on modern diagnostic imaging and Doppler echocardiography are fairly technical but an education on developing fields of paediatric

practice. I also like the detective story of Indian childhood cirrhosis.

Child psychiatry is very much part of paediatrics and the two chapters on anorexia nervosa and child sexual abuse discuss these subjects in depth and are practical in approach.

The eighth edition of this book should be put on the working shelf next to the seventh edition.

P R BETTS

**Connective Tissue Disease: Molecular Pathology of the Extracellular Matrix.** The Biochemistry of Disease. Vol 12. Edited by J Uitto and A J Perejda. Pp 553: \$94.75 (USA/Canada), \$113.50 (all other countries) hardback. Marcel Dekker, 1987.

Connective tissue is a complex mixture of components, including collagen, elastin, proteoglycans, and various adhesive proteins such as laminin and fibronectin. Widely distributed in structures such as bones, arteries, tendons, basement membranes, skin, intestines, pleuroperitoneal lining, joint capsules, and cartilage, there is limitless opportunity for inborn inherited and acquired diseases. These can commonly present to paediatricians in children of all ages. Obvious examples include osteogenesis imperfecta, congenital arterial fragility, and various subgroups of epidermolysis bullosa.

The book authoritatively covers connective tissue biochemistry, histology, and electron microscopy, and clinical aspects include collagen fibril variations in Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and osteogenesis imperfecta, the molecular pathology of fibrotic diseases such as pulmonary fibrosis, and normal healing. Basic information on collagen protein structure and assembly, elastin and microfibrillar structure, organisation of basement membranes, and adhesive interactions are well covered and presented, but there is only scanty information on the molecular biology of collagen.

This is a work for basic scientists and researchers with a special interest in connective tissue structure rather than the practising clinician. Nevertheless, the relevance of basic science to clinical practice is very well illustrated by this book. The price and detailed basic science will probably limit this book to the libraries of academic physicians, rheumatologists, dermatologists, geneticists, and basic scientists interested in this rapidly expanding field.

F M POPE

**Clinics in Oncology. Late Effects in Successfully Treated Children with Cancer.** Vol 4. No 2. Edited by M E Nesbit Jr. Pp 195-355: £15.00 hardback. W B Saunders Company, 1985.

The aim of treatment of childhood cancer is a healthy well adjusted adult. Unfortunately, the treatments used in malignant disease give rise to physical and psychosocial side effects, many occurring after treatment has finished. This book collects together the experience of several centres and discusses the late side effects that occur.

Chapters are divided into those dealing with dysfunction in organ systems and those concerned with the adverse effects seen in particular malignancies—for example, acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, Ewing's sarcoma, etc. Second malignancies and problems encountered in the patients' offspring are also covered.

There is much useful information contained in this book with many of the references relating to the 1980s.

Psychosocial aspects are covered but not as fully as physical problems and the authors emphasise the need for further studies in this field. All the authors save one hail from North America. This is most noticeable in the chapter on the role of the nurse in late effect evaluation, and though some of the information will not be applicable in all countries, the chapter contains much sensible advice on monitoring the child and aiding and educating the family.

This book gives an interesting and useful overview of the problems that need to be considered in any child treated for malignant disease. It is reasonably priced at £15.

A ESSEX-CATER

**Atlas of Skeletal Dysplasias.** By R Wynne-Davies, C M Hall, A G Apley. Pp 646: £95.00. Churchill Livingstone, 1985.

Some books, like people, have more quality the more we know of them. *Atlas of Skeletal Dysplasias* is so: it feels good, it looks good, and it is good.

Assembled by a threesome of orthopaedic geneticist, paediatric radiologist, and orthopaedic surgeon, it is a collector's catalogue of bone dysplasias from the cradle to the grave, arranged in order of the principal feature of the dysplasia.

The text is succinct and informative, the style granite, the result, an accessible bran tub with a few up to date references on



## Recent Advances in Paediatrics

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Updated information and services can be found at:  
<http://adc.bmj.com/content/62/6/643.1.citation>

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