development of motor control, intestinal motor activity in the preterm infant, and the development of the lower oesophageal sphincter in the preterm infant. The second section deals with disordered oesophageal function in two chapters. One deals with gastro-oesophageal reflux in infancy. The second deals with reflux and chronic bronchopulmonary disease. The third section covers small intestinal disorders and colonic function in five chapters. The first is on intestinal pseudo-obstruction in childhood. The second on the pathology of this condition. The third on motility disorders in cystic fibrosis. The fourth on the irritable bowel syndrome, and the last on constipation. The final section covers therapeutic agents and the use of prokinetic agents.

Despite its multiauthorship Peter Milla has achieved a cohesiveness of style, clarity, and brevity. Each chapter has useful references. It is inevitable that there will be a slight degree of overlap between different authors but this is a minor fault in a book that should be useful in the understanding and management of this difficult area of paediatric gastroenterology. It should find a useful place in the libraries of general paediatricians as well as of those working entirely in paediatric gastroenterology.

V MILLER
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This volume is one of the Treatment and Prognosis series, a multiauthor text edited by Clayden and Hawkins. The remit of the book is to provide a rapid update for these aspects of 'all important diseases of childhood' and this impossible task is valiantly attempted by the editors.

The book is designed for busy paediatricians, those preparing for examinations, and general practitioners desiring information on likely current practice at their specialist centres as well as some indication as to treatment that can be started at home.

Each bodily system is dealt with in a separate chapter, with extra chapters on neonatal disorders and poisoning. There is a fairly consistent format of around a page of text for each individual disease within these systems, starting with a brief description of the condition and followed by numerically arranged treatment options, then paragraphs on prognosis and a plan of follow up. Some authors tend to include suggestions about investigations within the treatment protocols, though this is not generally part of the discussion. The lack of information on pathophysiology, differential diagnosis, and investigation is ultimately unsettling to one not used to the concept of this series.

It would be easy to criticise the balance of such an ambitious project; the neonatal section is very brief and contains only 20 lines on meconium aspiration syndrome. Pyloric stenosis is not covered at all in the book whereas benign liver tumours receive two pages and dengue one page, respectively. Having said this most chapters are very well conceived and comprehensive, although not all would agree with the opinions of some authors as to first choice treatment.

The book performs best as a source of references for the interested clinician to explore further the 'Treatment and Prognosis' of the commoner, and indeed less common, childhood disorders and can be recommended for this task, although there will always be a need to read further about the other aspects of these conditions.

J K H WALES
LECTURER IN PAEDIATRICS
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The publication of this book comes at a most opportune time given the major concerns about both the physical examination and the interview of children suspected to have been sexually abused. This is in fact the third edition of this particular publication in three years, which indicates the speed of change in this area of major concern to many professionals whose interests centre on the potentially sexually abused child, whether they be medical, social workers, or police, because sexual abuse is at the same time a traumatic event with both physical and psychological consequences, a criminal act, and a form of child abuse requiring the possibilities of consideration of care. Because a small proportion of children show unequivocal physical signs it is essential that guides to interviewing be authoritative, and assist those who interview children to conduct both reliable and valued interviews.

David Jones and Mary McQuiston's book begins with an exploration of the predicament of the child sexual abuse victim looking at both the effects and the considerable problems that exist for children in being able to speak at all. They then review important issues for interviewers such as the fact that children are far more reliable as witnesses than was thought previously, and that their memory for central events even in the earlier years of childhood can be excellent. They examine some general principles of good interviewing including comments on the setting, presence of other parents, ways of recording a session, and which professionals should conduct such interviews and their general experience. They give an extensive guide to the interview itself, including a good exploration of language, anxieties, the use of toys and play material including the anatomically correct dolls and various forms of questioning styles and behavioural observation.

There is a good discussion of the use of facilitation which has been recommended in the Cleveland Enquiry Report as being a second stage examination by skilled and experienced interviewers. There is also an important discussion of the process of validation including the introduction of statement validation techniques which have begun to be developed in both Europe and North America.

This is an excellent introduction to the field of interviewing the sexually abused child, and will be of great value to all those professionals whose task it is to compliment the skilful physical examination of children.

A BENTOVIM
CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST
Hospital for Sick Children London


Unless my mathematics is seriously flawed, the febrile convulsion rate in England and Wales is about one child every half hour. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that the subject is one which continues to provide for paediatricians both employment and
Interviewing the Sexually Abused Child

A Bentovim

Arch Dis Child 1989 64: 433
doi: 10.1136/adc.64.3.433-a

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://adc.bmj.com/content/64/3/433.2.citation

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