We agree with Dr Hughes's advocacy of using mainly clinical parameters for treatment control, and that 17-OHP estimations have brought an improvement in monitoring CAH patients. The correlation of testosterone with 17-OHP levels is well known but as testosterone is less sensitive it can only be a rough guide to inadequate CAH control. Perhaps a longitudinal study, possibly with several centres taking part, could evaluate the various regimens.

Proctoscopy in infancy with reference to its use in necrotising enterocolitis

Sir,
I read with interest the paper by Fenton *et al.*,¹ but wondered why they changed the spelling of the word 'auriscope' which is derived from the Latin auris—ear; thus an auriscope is an instrument designed for examining ears (Medical Dictionary: Faber). According to the

Oxford Dictionary an 'auroscope' therefore is an instrument designed either for looking up the Goddess of the Dawn (Aurora), or for looking up an extinct European wild ox (Aurochs). This is particularly interesting as the technique described requires 'no equipment other than that which is normally to be found on a paediatric ward.'

The editors must control the indiscriminate changing of the spelling of words as they lose their original meaning and the resultant language becomes unintelligible—for example, Archives of Disease in Childhood, or even necrotising enterocolitis.

Reference

- 1 Fenton T R, Walker-Smith J A, Harvey D R. Proctoscopy in infancy with reference to its use in necrotising enterocolitis. *Arch Dis Child* 1981; **56**: 121-4.

DENNIS A C BARTER
Department of Paediatrics,
New Cross Hospital,
Wolverhampton WV10 0QP,
West Midlands

Book reviews

Diseases of Children, fourth edition. By Hugh Jolly. (Pp. 689; illustrated + tables. £16.00 hardback). Blackwell: Oxford. 1981.

It is five years since the last edition was published. This edition has been extensively revised and important and topical material has been added to the neonatal section in particular, while admirable pruning has left the overall size more or less unchanged. This book occupies the middle ground of texts between the short notes approach and the multi-author volume. It is directed at the medical student and general practitioner and will be an effective competitor in this field.

A synoptic view of paediatrics is perhaps no bad thing; the strength of this approach is stressed by the lucid and consistent prose of the author plus the absence of any important gaps or duplication of content, and an appropriate distribution of attention and detail relative to the importance of topics covered is achieved. There are particularly strong areas which are often not well covered by other books of this type, these include the sections on development and assessment, handicap, emotional and

behavioural problems, and the minor difficulties of infancy and childhood which cause so much anxiety for parents and family doctors.

Other parts of the book are perhaps not quite so successful; diseases are discussed by systems, but classification is poor, and the background physiology sketchy. Some sections comprise short descriptions of individual conditions with little attempt to tie them together in a more problem-orientated approach, and some medical students may not find the transition from preclinical studies particularly easy. No attempt is made to discuss treatment or practical procedures in depth, but there is a sensible and effective paediatric pharmacopeia within the book.

Those within its intended market will appreciate the author's style and description of paediatrics as well as the 140 odd well chosen and adequately reproduced clinical photographs. This book continues to compete effectively in the middle range of paediatric texts, the clarity of print and layout contributing greatly to this, and it can be confidently recommended to all who enjoy a paediatric textbook of the traditional type.

W S UTTLEY

Emotional Disorders in Children and Adolescents. Edited by G P Rooz Sholevar, R M Benson, and B J Blinder. Child Behaviour and Development Series. Series Editor D P Cantwell. (Pp. 710; tables. £35.00 hardback.) MTP Press: Lancaster. 1980.

This is a large and impressive book with 49 contributors and it concentrates on medical and psychological approaches to treatment. In many ways it is unique in that it concentrates purely on treatment and provides a wide view of the many therapeutic techniques available in child psychiatry including a range of psychotherapeutic interactions, behaviour and drug therapy, and various milieu treatments. The treatments of specific age groups and of specific disorders are considered in separate sections. The difficult topics of treatment of mental handicap and delinquency are presented, together with an interesting chapter on consultation work, and another on biofeedback.

In an all-American work one expects some difference in perspective and terminology but this is not a significant factor in this book. There is a general