labelled diagrams are clear. The quality of most of the nuclear magnetic resonance images is reasonable, but several of the ultrasound images are poor by modern standards.

The book has little to offer the paediatrician other than providing some idea of the sort of anatomical information which can be gained prenatally and on the basis of which he or she may be approached by an obstetric colleague for discussion and advice.

P R F DEAR

Urological Complications. Medical and Surgical, Adult and Pediatric. By FF Marshall. Pp 451: £62.00 hardback. Year Book Medical Publishers Inc, 1986.

Surgical complications are a lucrative business these days, not only for litigation lawyers but also, it seems, for medical publishers. During the last year the subject of surgical complications has been comprehensively covered by a number of new titles, the most recent of which is Dr Marshall's book which deals with adult and paediatric urology. As two thirds of the book is devoted to adult practice it is a relatively expensive purchase for specialists in paediatric urology.

There is, however, some common ground covered in the adult chapters, particularly those dealing with stone surgery, urinary diversion, and trauma. Dr Keith Light's excellent contribution on the problems of artificial sphincter surgery is enough to deter most paediatric urologists from embarking on this complex work.

Contributors to the paediatric section include some of the household names of American paediatric urology; for example, Dr Jeffs writes on bladder exstrophy, Dr Devine on hypospadias, and Dr Mitchell on urethral valves and reimplantation. Routine procedures, a fertile source of complications, have not been overlooked with chapters on orchidopexy and circumcision. There is even a chapter on the complications of antenatal intervention. This book, with its wealth of technical detail, will appeal to paediatric surgeons and urologists.

D F M THOMAS

My Name is Today. By D C Morley and H Lovel. Pp 359: £2.95 paperback. Macmillan Ltd, 1986.

This book commemorates the 40th anniversary of UNICEF and pleads the

cause of the most needy children in our world. Its stated purpose is to help the privileged to see and understand the problems of the underprivileged. Those concerned with children in any way must look through this book. It will make you think, smile, frown, and sometimes grimace.

The format is unusual and innovative; it is a book of ideas in pictures. There are 187 cartoons and graphs, drawn or modified by Mrs Gillian Oliver, interspersed with a dialogue between the authors, and followed by a long reading list. The theme is the health and wellbeing of the underprivileged children of the world.

Since the method is the cartoon, it is natural that there is a dependence on slogans and oversimplification of issues. One example appears in the section contrasting expenditure on armaments with that on education, homes, and health care (fig 91, p 157). 'The choice is ours'—declares the heading, but unfortunately it's not as simple as that!

There are numerous cartoons which are ideologically appealing but politically naive or not fully worked out. Some poetic licence is permissible for medicopolitical cartoonists whose purpose is to stimulate, and whose audience is not that of the academic journal. But when another objective is to inform, greater caution is needed when mixing statistical data from political and medical sources. Some figures and comments are over optimistic (fig 158 and p 299 'Many European mothers now suckle their infants for 1-3 years'), and others are difficult to believe (fig 54, p 94. Do the poor really have a lower percentage of overweight children than the economically elite? Which country?). Some figures are complicated and need more explanation (fig 60, p 102, and fig 173, p 322).

I had problems with the references and reading list. Sometimes there is a string of references in relation to a figure, and it is not clear which one is the source of the data. For example, there are nine references for fig 132. Occasionally I believe the most pertinent reference on the topic is not quoted. For example, the best reference to the 'pinch and scoop' method of measuring salt and sugar for oral rehydration (fig 140) is that of Ellerbrock (*Tropical Doctor* 1981;11:179-83). Fig 151 is about refrigerators for vaccines, but no reference is given to the three practical books on the subject from the Appropriate Health Resources and Technologies Action Group (AHRTAG).

This book is important, informative, infuriating, but challenging. The world is

full of inequalities, and paediatricians concerned to minimise the effects of this unfairness on the well being of children will receive both ideas and stimulation from this book.

WILLIAM A M CUTTING

Primary Pediatric Care. Edited by RA Hoekelman, S Blatman, SB Friedman, NM Nelson, HM Seidel. Pp 1776: £55.00 hardback. CV Mosby Co, 1987.

This weighty North American textbook has over 200 contributors and is aimed at those who look after children in a primary care setting. The expressed aim of the book is to provide a scientific basis to primary care and to focus on 'the determinants and reflections of health and disease' rather than adopting a more traditional pathophysiological approach.

The book is divided into nine parts. Part 1 opens with an 'over view of pediatric care' and includes an account of morbidity and mortality in the young. Part 2 deals with history taking and communication skills. Part 3, on principles of patient care, concentrates on nutrition, immunisation, screening for disease, and pharmacology. Part 4, entitled 'The reproductive process' considers reproductive physiology, contraception, factors which may adversely affect the fetus, perinatal medicine, and modern obstetric techniques. Part 5 is devoted to neonatal issues including parental support. Part 6, on psychosocial problems, includes such topics as the effect of television on the family, parental abuse by children, school health, and childhood and adolescent behavioural problems. Parts 7 and 8 are the largest sections of the book and deal, respectively, with 68 common presenting signs and symptoms each considered separately (including abdominal pain, cough, haematuria, and limp) and 87 specific clinical problems (including acne, diabetes, leukaemia, phimosis, and sudden infant death). The book concludes with details of managing emergencies.

This book is a fascinating source of information for those concerned with 'ambulatory pediatrics'. The editors' intention to focus on primary care is carried through in practice—for example, having dealt with accidents as the major cause of death in childhood, there is later an extensive section on accident prevention which even includes such details as 'safety rules when meeting a strange dog'.

The book is attractively laid out, has up to date references, and is on the whole very

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readable, touching as it does on many aspects of general paediatric care. A minority of the content is applicable only to those practising in North America and while we may, for example, not agree that the best time for parents to see a paediatrician is before their baby is born (when circumcision is an appropriate topic for discussion), pleas to look favourably on demands for greater consumer involvement in health care are just as relevant in the United Kingdom.

I would recommend this book to general practitioners and others working in the field of primary paediatric care, but feel it will also appeal to many training for careers in hospital paediatrics.

J PUNTIS

Physical Examination of the Musculoskeletal System. Edited by M Post. Pp 311: £58.00 hardback. Year Book Medical Publishers Inc, 1987.

This book is written by 13 orthopaedic surgeons from North America and one from England. It describes in 12 chapters an approach to the clinical examination of the skeletal system. Two chapters are devoted to examination of children.

I cannot recommend it. I found its style turgid with a disconcerting absence of structure. The chapters devoted to children are confusing and give an impression of adult orientation. The drawings illustrating the section on neonatal hip examination, for instance, are of a much older child and the text gives the impression that the authors are not at all sure what age of child they are examining. The manoeuvres for the detection of congenital dislocation of the hip are badly described. I feel confident that if you have £58 to spend on books you could do better than this one.

D P ADDY

Food Allergy and Intolerance. Edited by J Brostoff and SJ Challacombe. Pp 1032: £75.00 hardback. Bailliere Tindall/WB Saunders, 1987.

The field of food allergy has been described as a model of obstruction to the advancement of learning and sadly this huge book displays the problem all too well. Sixty one chapters cover basic mechanisms, food components and their reactions, end organ effects, diagnosis, and treatment. While the sections on basic science are good, the clinical aspects tend to be dealt with in an uncritical and anecdotal way and this part of the book is very weak indeed. Paediatricians seeking sound practical guidance on food allergy will need to look elsewhere.

T J DAVID

Clinical Endocrinology. Theory and Practice. By Alexis Labhart. Pp 1092: DM 360 hardback. Springer Verlag, 1986.

As the title implies, this volume covers the whole field of endocrinology 'theory and practice' and as such it has much to recommend it. This is the second English edition and all but one of the authors are Swiss, many from the endocrinologically prestigious centre of Zurich. Despite the many authors the style of presentation is consistent and readable, and much of the information is provided concisely in tabular form. Subjects are considered in depth from the 'theoretical' aspect, under such headings as history, embryology, histology, biochemistry, and physiology, before embarking on the clinical practice. The chapters are well divided into specific subsections and by means of excellent indexing it is easy to locate any subject; there is some reference to almost every-

thing. The sizeable list of references is well selected and divided according to the sections.

A review for a paediatric journal must perforce focus on its relevance for paediatricians, for whom this book has not specifically been written. Nevertheless, the authors include many eminent paediatricians and the consideration of some paediatrically important disorders is comprehensive; yet overall the paediatric component is a little lost in this large volume. There is not a consistent emphasis in the presentation of diseases of paediatric relevance, some being adequately considered, others with little more than a mention, and frequently theory overrides the practical paediatric clinical element. Those subjects which have special sections for the childhood disease fare better than those in which no such specific consideration is given. In diseases which are uncommon in children compared with adults, such as thyrotoxicosis or Cushing's syndrome, little reference is made to clinical aspects of particular importance in children, notably growth. There is little space given to the subject of adolescent endocrinological problems other than reference to physical changes of puberty included in a chapter on growth and development (in which only a few standard values cited, not surprisingly, by the Swiss).

As this book is not written primarily for paediatric endocrinologists it is clearly not the best for them, but that was not its purpose. It serves better for adult endocrinologists who wish to extend their knowledge into the age range of childhood. But a paediatrician is looking for a comprehensive overview of endocrinology, and willing to extend his interest outside the limits of clinical childhood disease, this is certainly a worthwhile book for his collection.

J M H BUCKLEY