Current methods of screening for hearing loss in the community are discussed, although 'performance tests' and speech discrimination tasks, which are widely used as screening techniques in children aged 3-5 years, are confusingly included in diagnostic audiometry. The author suggests that the audiological management provided in her district could be regarded as a model for future developments and describes it in some detail. A similar service could, however, be provided by districts with different staff and facilities.

The sections covering the effects of hearing loss on the child concentrate on the more prevalent condition of secretory otitis media, with the author's bias in favour of active management being strongly stated. There is less emphasis on sensorineural hearing losses. This balance may be reasonable in view of the potential market for this book. Overall this is a clear, concise, and informative book on those aspects of paediatric audiology of interest to the non-specialist and as such deserves a wide readership.

S BELMAN

Child Psychiatry. A Developmental Approach. By Philip Graham. Pp 465: £12.50 paperback. Oxford University Press, 1986.

This book aims to provide a contemporary summary of child psychiatry for all doctors concerned with children, but especially paediatricians and psychiatrists in training.

ICD 9 and DSM III, which are not food additives but rival multiaxial systems for classification of psychiatric disorders, are assessed and their limitations noted. Clear accounts of the various disorders are presented within a developmental framework. Competing aetiological theories are mentioned but emphasis is placed on the known facts of epidemiology, characteristics, and prognosis of each condition. Psychosocial aspects of physical diseases are well covered. Some paediatricians may find the summaries of medical aspects of the various illnesses and handicaps to be superfluous, but their inclusion provides useful background information for readers from other disciplines.

Treatment methods are reviewed impartially. Many examples of different approaches are given, illustrating appropriate interventions by general practitioners and paediatricians, as well as by more

specialised therapists. The book concludes with a section on preventive approaches. Primary prevention will depend mainly on public policy. There is, however, plenty of guidance to individual professionals to improve their personal practice by enhancing communication, fostering children's self-esteem and promoting healthy attitudes within families.

If there has been any tendency for paediatricians to imagine child psychiatry as a marginal discipline practiced behind one way screens, this book provides a welcome overview which places a concern for psychosocial issues firmly at the heart of paediatrics. It is concise, well referenced, and remarkably inexpensive.

D B CUNDALL

Oxford Monographs on Medical Genetics No 15. Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. By Alan E H Emery. Pp 315: £35.00 hardback. Oxford University Press, 1987.

A whole book devoted to a single disease must suggest to many that the finished product will be a detailed text written for a small number of highly specialised clinicians or research workers. Professor Emery's book is detailed and could without doubt be of interest to such a group of readers, but to many others besides. Sir John Walton in his Foreword cites a wide range of professionals, not all of them medical, that he thinks would find something of interest within this book. I agree with him.

Professor Emery's monograph on Duchenne muscular dystrophy begins with an introduction to some general principles on the development and morphology of muscle followed by an interesting account of the historical aspects of the disease. Subsequent chapters cover the clinical features, the diagnosis, differential diagnosis, discussion of the involvement of tissues other than skeletal muscle, the biochemistry of Duchenne muscular dystrophy, pathogenesis, genetics, molecular pathology, prevention, genetic counselling, and management. There are seven appendices and each chapter has a short summary. A comprehensive and apparently well chosen bibliography is provided and this includes a large number of references to publications within the last two years.

The style of the book is attractive and it is enjoyable to read although typographical errors are quite common.

The account of the molecular pathology of Duchenne muscular dystrophy is one example of how a complex and rapidly changing subject is presented in a form that should be comprehensible to most readers. And it is very up to date. The large chapter on management succeeds in striking a realistic balance, for the most part, between the varying thoughts of different schools on what cannot avoid being an emotive topic. I believe that this is a book that should be available in every paediatric library and that all of those that have any role in the diagnosis and management of children with neuromuscular disease should be made aware of its existence and encouraged to look at it.

The number of people who may want to buy the book may be small, but those that would welcome access to it will, I am sure, be numerous.

GWILYM HOSKING

Children with Neurological Disorders, Book 1. Neurologically Handicapped Children: Treatment and Management. Edited by N Gordon and I McKinlay. Pp 525: £19.50 paperback, £42.50 cloth: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1986.

Children with Neurological Disorders, Book 2. Neurologically Sick Children: Treatment and Management. Edited by N Gordon and I McKinlay. Pp 525: £19.50 paperback, £42.50 cloth: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1986.

These two companion volumes explore similar fields: the neurology management of handicapped children (book 1) and sick children (book 2). Such artificial distinctions cause considerable overlaps. Book 1 covers long term handicaps, (such as cerebral palsy, hearing loss, fits and learning disorders) and management approaches (orthopaedics, genetic counselling, remedial teaching), with some philosophical discussion. Book 2 reviews paediatric neurological disease, (including infections, tumours, traumatic and metabolic diseases), and management issues (neurosurgical referral, respiratory failure, counselling, neuroradiology).

The 40 contributors, half of whom work in Manchester, range from neurologists and neurosurgeons (predominant in book 2) to psychologists, social workers, geneticists, and other therapists. The intention is to update neurological management, and book 1 is aimed not only at doctors