make this the first of a series of BPA handbooks.

I would like to acknowledge Dr Martin Moncrieff's assistance in reading the book and providing helpful comments.

D ISAACS
WELLCOME TRUST LECTURER
John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford

Immunization in Practice. World Health Organization. Pp 361: £3.50 paperback. Oxford University Press, 1989. ISBN 0-19-261545-9.

This book is an excellent example of a teaching manual with its emphasis on participation rather than lectures. It is clear and simple without being patronising. I now know how to sharpen needles, store water for reuse, and to put the box of vaccine in the shade of a tree, if my car breaks down.

The WHO gives immunisation a high priority. Training large numbers of health workers to administer vaccines is vital and they have drawn up a training programme for these people. This programme has been used, modified, and rewritten. They have now published this as a training manual. It is primarily for workers in developing countries, but I think its approach to training and practical ideas have much to offer people in 'developed' countries. How often do we forget the importance of the advice 'be reliable and punctual', 'be polite and friendly'?

The opening pages discuss approaches to training. There is an emphasis on helping people to understand by means of exercises, questions, case studies, and discussions, rather than lectures. There is also specific advice on planning a training session. The rest of the book is divided into eight modules for field workers on practical aspects of running an immunisation programme—for example, vaccines and how to look after them, preparing for an immunisation session, how to evaluate your own immunisation programme. Each module consists of clear, simple information with appropriate practical work. Wide-spread use of the programme should have ironed out most problems. The error in labelling the illustrated syringe (0.5 instead of 0.05) is presumably because in practice a real syringe is used for demonstration purposes.

This material would be essential for anyone working in the field of immunisation

in developing countries. The original modules have apparently not always been easily obtainable. The book gives a valuable insight into the problems faced by immunisers in developing countries—for example, the emphasis on maintaining a cold chain and the practicalities of organising outreach sessions in the open air. It also illustrates the positive attitude to immunisation by the WHO (children should be immunised even if unwell). It is also a very good model of teaching methods applicable in all countries in many fields.

C PULLAN
CONSULTANT COMMUNITY PAEDIATRICIAN
Nottingham Health Authority

Diseases of the Fetus and Newborn: Pathology, Radiology and Genetics. Edited by G B Reed, A E Claireaux, and A D Bain. Pp 812: £135 hardback. Chapman and Hall, 1989. ISBN 0-412-27990-8.

This book attempts to mould into one volume information for the pathologist, radiologist, and geneticist. The text is in four sections: (1) general aspects of disease, (2) systemic pathology, (3) radiology and imaging, and (4) medical genetics. In the preface the editors say that their targets are the pathologist, laboratory scientist, obstetrician, and paediatrician.

To reach such a wide audience they have recruited 59 contributors from six countries, including 29 from the United States and 20 from the United Kingdom. Editorial control of this number of contributors must be extremely difficult and American and English spellings are used in various chapters so that one reads about 'paediatrician' and 'pediatrician' and 'foetus' and 'fetus' depending upon the origin of the author. Another problem faced by the editors was delayed publication. On page 637, Drs Simoni and Brambati from Milan state at the end of their chapter on fetal karyotyping: 'In December 1985, when we wrote this chapter, we focused the technical and diagnostic problems related to first trimester CVS on the basis of our experience that was just lower than 1,000 cases. By now (June 1988) our experience has been extended to 2520 diagnoses . . .'. Contributors who submit their chapters early have more work in updating but the Italian doctors managed to include six references from 1986 and two from 1987 in their updated chapter. The death of Dr Douglas Bain, one of the coeditors, in

January 1987 must have been a major reason for delay in publication.

Overall this is a book for the pathologist rather than the clinician. Of the contributors there are only one or two obstetricians and paediatricians but no neonatologist. The longest section, on systemic pathology, is probably the best, although there are some areas of overlap. The section on radiology is quite short but is liberally illustrated with radiographs, ultrasound scans, and magnetic resonance images.

The fourth section, on medical genetics and prenatal diagnosis, begins with a scholarly discussion of genetic screening by Dr Seamus Cahalane from Dublin. He begins by quoting from Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*: 'These are begot in the ventricle of memory, nourished in the womb of pia mater, and delivered upon the mellowing of occasion'. These words, although uttered as pretentious jibberish by the pedant are as apt a description of the chapter as is the irony of the play's title. Later in this section Drs Alan Michelson and Stuart Orkin from Boston provide a concise summary of prenatal diagnosis by analysis of fetal DNA. Gene mapping, DNA cloning, southern blotting, and restriction fragment length polymorphisms all crop up as expected in modern textbooks, but they have a role in prenatal diagnosis not only of haemoglobinopathies but also of phenylketonuria, ornithine transcarbamylase deficiency, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and cystic fibrosis.

The editors have been largely successful in their aim to produce a tripartite textbook. Future editions would be improved by correction of areas of overlap. This book should be most useful to practising and training perinatal and general pathologists and a copy should be available in all pathology departments. It will also provide a useful reference for practising obstetricians and paediatricians and each large maternity hospital should have one. At a price of £135 I doubt whether many paediatricians will buy a personal copy.

H L HALLIDAY
CONSULTANT PAEDIATRICIAN
Royal Maternity Hospital,
Belfast

Practical Genetic Counselling. By Peter S Harper. 3rd ed. Pp 306: £25 paperback. Butterworth, 1988. ISBN 0-7236-1019-3.

A 'simple book' is offered by the author,

yet he provides a discursive exposition of the whole subject from basic principles to details of latest DNA technology. He succeeds in appealing to his intended audience of practising clinicians. The first 10 chapters are general, covering mendelian and non-mendelian disorders, chromosome anomalies, dysmorphology, carrier detection, prenatal diagnosis and the organisation of a genetic counselling clinic. The section on X linked disorders conveys its complexity and will convince readers of the necessity for clinical geneticists!

The second half of the book covers 'specific organ systems' with chapters which include oral and craniofacial disorders, deafness, environmental hazards, genetic risks in cancer, in addition to predictable topics. Here there is a tendency to repeat some information from the early chapters, and much space is given to clinical description rather than genetics per se. Many non-genetic conditions are briefly included. There is a comprehensive index and a list of lay societies involved in inheritable diseases. There are some excellent tables but these could have been used much more extensively in the organ system section where many lines of text convey little information and abbreviations are not much employed.

The style is fluent and persuasive. Professor Harper displays clear empathy with his audience, shining through as a physician whose appreciation of the human aspects of his subject is paramount and to which his knowledge is subjugated. Anecdotes, imperatives, and aphorisms appear regularly, rendering the reading most enjoyable and inviting us to match both his enthusiasm and professional rigour. His concluding chapter touches on eugenics and looks to the future. The book is practical, informative, and stimulating—highly recommended.

G HAMBLETON
CONSULTANT PAEDIATRICIAN
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

Clinical Paediatric Endocrinology. 2nd ed. Edited by CGD Brook (forward by MM Grumbach). Pp 724: £125 hardback. Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1989. ISBN 0-632-02018-X.

'The dramatic advances in endocrinology... form... an extraordinary chapter in the history of science and medicine. The profound effect... on paediatric endocrinology...

logy... is of special interest' to paediatricians. The words are those of Dr Mel Grumbach who provides the forward to this comprehensive resource text book.

There are 31 contributing authors, 19 based in the United Kingdom and the remainder originating from Europe or the United States reflecting the editor's affiliations with the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology and the Lawson Wilkins Society.

A number of chapters by the same authors as the 1981 edition have required little revision but others are comprehensively updated and retain their excellence, such as chapters on intersex (MO Savage), the short child (JM Parkin), the neurohypophysis (J Perheentupa), adrenal deficiency and excess (M Forest). Several chapters with similar subject headings to the first edition are written by different authors, for instance the first chapter on fetal growth (DJ Hill and RDG Milner) provides a fascinating review of paracrinology, the tissue signals responsible for early embryological growth and later endocrine development.

The Middlesex approach to investigation, description, and management of short stature is thoroughly aired in chapters on normal growth and endocrine control and the management of short stature. Many readers hoping for practical advice will find these parts of the text somewhat theoretical, unduly mathematical, and at times unconvincing. The Middlesex authors redeem themselves with excellent accounts of puberty and its disorders.

Other slight disappointments were the chapters on gynaecology (lack of paediatric orientation with inappropriate therapeutics) and the thyroid gland (no mention of the consequences of late treatment of congenital hypothyroidism or the spectacularly improved prognosis after neonatal screening).

Further on in the book, however, there are useful chapters on hypothalamic hormones (A Grossman), the adrenal cortex (J Honour), and adrenal hyperplasia (M New and P W Speiser). There is an outstanding account of calcium disorders (K Kruse) and much sound scholarship and practical advice on diabetes mellitus (B Weber and F Bonnici).

The entirely new section on imaging (computed tomography, nuclear magnetic resonance, and ultrasound) is successful except that several of the anatomical descriptions and figures would have benefited from additional line diagrams, arrows, and landmarks. Normal laboratory values and

endocrine function tests (IA Hughes) are available in abundance.

This is, therefore, a provocatively different second edition which complements the first. It is for paediatricians and endocrinologists but they might be surprised by a lack of print quality and many typographical errors in a book of such horrendous price. It is disheartening that 'Next' produces its 'directory' of 474 superbly printed colour pages for sale at £3 when it costs individuals or libraries £125 to buy this important text book.

P G F SWIRE
CONSULTANT PAEDIATRICIAN
Leicester General Hospital

Handbook of Paediatrics. By N Mann and A Nicoll. Pp 356: £12.50 paperback. Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1989. ISBN 0-632-01967-0.

This book will be very popular for all those at the sharp end of paediatrics, whether they are working in hospital, the community or general practice. There is an unusual but wise choice of subjects, described in a fairly didactic way, and these cover most of the common and often difficult decisions that have to be made.

As might be expected from these authors there is fairly detailed discussion on growth development, and immunisation including good advice on AIDS. The accompanying charts and diagrams are well selected and highly relevant. Those with a passion for flow charts will not be disappointed, though excellent one on resuscitation of the newborn will no doubt be in the pocket of most neonatal housemen, unless already taken from the authors' original article. The more convoluted flowchart on the collapsed child is harder work but contains a mass of information.

The chapter on nutrition and fluids is particularly clear and easy access to all the usual formulae will be welcomed. Child abuse is dealt with in a wise way, going beyond the usual description of injuries giving good advice on case conferences, reports, procedures, and courts.

The chapter on practical procedures is clearly written by someone still at the height of his technical skills and will be invaluable to all new housemen.

It is good to see brief but informative chapters on death, paramedical services and immigrant groups.

This book is more than a vade mecum but would not see someone through