It is a book to buy for treatment course libraries, physical education departments, thinking and committed orthopods, and academic libraries.

IAN MCKINLAY
Senior lecturer (community child health)

Colour Atlas of Paediatric Haematology. 2nd Ed. Edited by Ian M Hann, Brian D Lake, Jon Pritchard, John Lilleyman. (Pp 148; £60.00 hardback.) Oxford Medical Publications, 1990. ISBN 0-19-261893-8.

Those who criticise colour atlases as being full of pictures but of little substance would do a great injustice to this guide to paediatric haematology. The colour photographs of blood and bone marrow are quite spectacular and full of detail, and the text, although necessarily brief, is concise and authoritative.

The authors ensure that the normal appearances of blood and bone marrow are properly described before turning their attentions to paediatric haematological disorders. I was pleased to see that the section on neonatal and perinatal disorders included blood films of sick infants without primary haematological conditions, as these can be most misleading to the less experienced observer.

In this second edition of the atlas the authors have added a good deal of new material, especially in sections dealing with acute leukaemia, perinatal and storage disorders. This book is intended as an 'aide memoire' for haematological and technical staff in hospital laboratories who are not working exclusively in the field of paediatric haematology. It may also, however, be of interest to many general paediatricians wishing to know more about the haematological aspects of the problems of children in their care. I have no doubt that this book, with its well deserved continuing popularity, will adorn the shelves of many haematology and paediatric departments over the next few years.

C L NEWMAN
Consultant paediatrician

NAWCH Quality Review—Setting Standards for Children in Health Care. Christine Hogg. (Pp 80; £14.95 paperback.) NAWCH, 1989. ISBN 0904076-06-07.

The National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital (NAWCH) *Charter for Children in Hospital*, published in 1985, provided us with a clear comprehensive statement of children's needs when in hospital care, whether in Manchester or Mukka Flugga. Now comes son of NAWCH, or the *NAWCH Quality Review*, which itself emerged from the *Quality Checklist for Caring for Children in Hospital* published in 1988.

Its stated aim is to provide a tool to look at the 'total experience' of the child while in health care: as an outpatient, in operating theatres and radiography departments, as well as in the hospital wards where children are looked after. All the staff the children encounter—porters, receptionists, nurses, or doctors—are also included. By doing this, a profile of the services provided in a district can be drawn up and can act as the basis of a dialogue between clinical staff and managers about the service for which they are mutually responsible.

The first part of the book outlines the rationale behind current policies relating to the care of children. It then proceeds to give detailed quality checklists under separate headings in two main categories—policy and planning and service provision for children. Examples of the first are on district health authority policy and planning and nursing policy. In the second category are included checklists for outpatient clinics, diagnostic and support services, and accident and emergency departments. To round off this section there are two questionnaires for parents.

Personal experience of using this document in an average sized NHS district over the past nine months has shown its usefulness in compiling a picture of the service drawn from the responses of a wide range of staff. It clearly showed areas of strength and weakness and areas of confusion between different members and groups of staff, and had a remarkable ability to clarify issues for dialogue with managers of the service. It was readily accepted by the district general manager and district health authority as the basis for quality assessment and its recognition in the drawing up of service contracts. Finally it was helpful as a tool to discuss problems in common with members of staff who deal with children as only a part of their overall work, for example, anaesthetists, outpatient nurses, and ear, nose, and throat surgeons. It provides a basis for discussion rather than a threatening confrontation over issues that arise.

In the current climate of changes in the NHS, this book provides an invaluable guide to those working with children. Each children's department should purchase at least two copies so that it is readily available for the use of both clinical staff and managers. I await with interest the production of a similar volume dealing with community child health.

RICHARD J PURVIS
Consultant paediatrician

Pediatric Hepatology. Edited by William F Balistreri, J Thomas Stocker. (Pp 498; £100 hardback.) Hemisphere Publishing Corporation, 1990. ISBN 0-89116-738-2.

This book is based on a seminar on paediatric hepatobiliary disease, which is the third of a series of seminars on paediatric disease held at The Gant in Aspen, Colorado. It is greatly to the credit of our American colleagues that they managed to tear themselves away from the ski slopes long enough to produce this excellent book, which provides an up to date view on many aspects of paediatric liver disease. The contributors include paediatricians, pathologists, and basic scientists and are drawn from many centres in the United States, notably the Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, and the University of Colorado, Denver.

It does not attempt to be a comprehensive textbook but provides recent information and an insight into many enigmatic and difficult topics in paediatric liver disease. It is very definitely a book for specialists or subspecialists who have an interest in liver disease and its associated problems. I would think its general appeal is limited as it is not comprehensive enough to use as a reference text for general paediatricians but would be helpful for trainee paediatricians researching a specific problem.

The topics include many of the 'usual' prob-

lems such as infantile cholangiopathy, biliary atresia, total parenteral nutrition associated cholestasis, an update on α_1 antitrypsin deficiency, and an obligatory, but rather brief, chapter on liver transplantation.

I was interested by the attempt to unravel the mysteries of Reye's syndrome and its metabolic mimickers (William F Balistreri), and a comprehensive and well written chapter on systemic disorders associated with hepatobiliary dysfunction (Basil J Zitelli).

The chapter on fulminant hepatic failure was well discussed (Ronald Sokol), and was one of the few chapters with a good guide to the management of this fatal condition. Less impressive were the chapters on acute and chronic hepatitis, which were rather mundane and out of date with little discussion of the new and exciting advances in autoimmune hepatitis, hepatitis C, antiviral treatment, and vaccine prevention of this illness. The chapter on liver transplantation was too brief and not sufficiently up to date for the readership of experts for whom the book is intended.

There is a practical section on the pathology of inherited metabolic disorders (Kamal G Ishak), with an excellent account of appropriate methodology. However, the large number of metabolic diseases included meant that the description of their pathological changes was less helpful to an expert but useful as a general screening guide for non-specialists.

I found the chapters on classification of hepatic tumours (J T Stocker) and hepatic allograft pathology after transplant (Rodney S Markin) very clear with helpful summaries of these difficult areas.

There is much emphasis on the difficulties of making a diagnosis in many curious conditions. Disappointingly, there is very little practical help given in the management of these disorders. I was particularly disappointed to find that there is no mention of the psychosocial aspects of liver disease and the necessity to provide support for families of children with such devastating illnesses.

As in most published seminars, the chapters tend to read like scripts for a lecture, but despite this drawback the topics are well reviewed and well illustrated and would be most helpful to paediatricians in training, or practising in gastroenterology, hepatology, or metabolic disease.

In summary this book attempts to bring up to date the less well known areas of paediatric liver disease, and is fascinating reading for the select group of paediatricians concerned with these problems, but it will not be of interest to the general paediatrician and neither is it meant to be.

DEIRDRE KELLY
Consultant paediatric hepatologist

Paediatric Rheumatology Update. Edited by Patricia Woo, Patience H White, Barbara M Ansell. (Pp 247; £30 hardback.) Oxford University Press, 1990. ISBN 0-19-261860-1.

This book aims to present current thinking, both in management and research in the field of paediatric rheumatology. It is based on an international symposium that commemorated the retirement of Dr Barbara Ansell, and is not aiming to be an up to date comprehensive textbook but to focus upon changing knowledge, ideas, and practice. I feel that I have learnt more from this book than having attended the meeting.