idiopathic pulmonary haemosiderosis, sarcoidosis, extrinsic allergic alveolitis, pulmonary alveolar microlithiasis, α₁-antitrypsin deficiency, obliterative bronchiolitis, McLeod’s syndrome, and hydatid cyst infection. A variety of congenital maldevelopments of the bronchi, lungs, and diaphragm are admirably discussed in a further chapter. The reproductions of x-rays are unusually good and there are many good outline drawings and illustrations. Selected references are listed at the end of each chapter.

The book has some limitations. The final chapter on respiratory function tests describes them in summary form only. One would have to go elsewhere for practical details. There are no normal values and under individual diseases the abnormalities to be expected in ventilatory tests or blood gas levels are dealt with rather sketchily and in general terms without reference to information in the literature. There is usually no detailed information about the drugs used in treatment and frequently one would have to look elsewhere for dosage, side effects, etc. Neoplastic diseases are not discussed. A foreign body is not mentioned among the causes of bronchiectasis, yet this must be one of the commoner causes, at least in this country. Sweat tests are mentioned in the diagnosis of cystic fibrosis but no details of normal and abnormal values or the difficulties of interpretation are given. Trypsin in the stool is not discussed. These are minor points of criticism, however, and the book can be highly recommended to all who treat children with chest disease.


This book is the first text on paediatric gastroenterology to be produced this side of the Atlantic. It is well produced with clear figures and illustrations, and covers very comprehensively a wide range of subjects within the field of paediatric gastroenterology including basic physiology and biochemistry. It is a pity that some major topics such as gastroenteritis and gastroenterological surgical disorders are not dealt with as fully as most other topics, but this would make this large book even larger.

The size of this text indicates the great expansion in knowledge that has occurred in this subspeciality within a comparatively short period of time. Incidentally, it also demonstrates the major role that Professor Anderson and her trainees in Melbourne and Birmingham have played in the development of the subject. Contributions to this text come not only from Professor Anderson and her co-editor Dr. Valerie Burke, but also from a number of other distinguished workers from Britain, Australia, India, and Switzerland. The sections on the oesophagus and stomach by Professors Carré and Dr. Dodge, respectively, are particularly valuable, especially as they provide a broad bibliography of these subjects not otherwise readily available. Indeed one of the strengths of this book is the presence of an extensive bibliography attached to each chapter.

This book is a must for every paediatrician interested in this field but its unavoidably high price is likely to preclude it finding a place on the shelf of most doctors. However, it should readily find a place on the shelf of every hospital library.


Many readers will feel that there has already been a surfeit of books on calcium metabolism in recent years. These books have mostly taken the form of proceedings from an almost matching number of international symposia on the field. They have therefore tended to treat selected, and often repetitive, topics in depth. By contrast, Dr. Paterson has written a monograph which attempts to cover the field in a reasonably simple but comprehensive manner. His book is a justifiable addition to the list.

He begins in what is now the standard manner by covering basic biochemistry of calcium and phosphorus, and surveying recent research into parathyroid hormone, vitamin D, and calcitonin. He then provides a general section of symptomatology and techniques of investigation in metabolic bone disease. The bulk of the book then deals individually with all the main and most of the subsidiary clinical syndromes.

The style is straightforwardly descriptive, but conflicting data are reasonably discussed and the author expresses sound opinions. Though he writes primarily from the standpoint of chemical pathology, little is neglected and bone histology, radiology, and clinical features are also studied carefully. Therapy is considered in somewhat lesser detail, particularly in some of its more difficult aspects; for example, treatment with vitamin D and dihydrotachysterol in high dosage are virtually equated. No doubt limitations of size also restrict adequate coverage of the broad field of renal tubular disorders and their pathology.

The book is well up-to-date and its exhaustive references will be particularly helpful to the clinical researcher. It is certainly more than a précis of other people’s work, and should prove particularly helpful to hospital doctors and medical students who wish to broaden their knowledge of these forms of disease.