

Shorter notices

Textbook of Paediatric Emergency Medicine. Edited by G Fleisher and S Ludwig. Pp 1348: £70.75 hardback. Baltimore/London: Williams and Wilkins, 1983.

This large multi-author textbook is written by the staff of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. It provides an admirably comprehensive approach to the management of medical, surgical, and psychosocial emergencies including practical details of treatment and procedures. It will be a valuable reference book for any paediatric ward or accident and emergency department.

Diabetes and the Endocrine Pancreas: A Biochemical Approach. By W Montague. Pp 169: £6.95 hardback. Kent: Croom Helm, 1983.

This book summarises present knowledge of the structure and biochemical function of the endocrine pancreas; β cell size, insulin gene structure, mechanisms of insulin action, and the biochemical basis of diabetic tissue damage are all detailed. The chapter on clinical diabetes mellitus is skimpy, but manages to expose our current treatment limitations despite advances in basic knowledge.

Although full of interesting details, this book is mainly for students. Among practising clinicians, specialists will want more evidence and generalists more clinical emphasis.

Nelson Textbook of Paediatrics. Edited by R E Behrman and V C Vaughan. 12th edition. Pp 1899: £49.50 hardback. Philadelphia: W B Saunders, 1983.

The twelfth edition of this great American textbook appears 50 years after the first. It is an extraordinary achievement, and at a cost of less than £50 this vast and well presented book is unbeatable value.

Skeletal Dysplasia. (Progress in Clinical and Biological Research, vol. 104). Edited by C J Papadatos, C S Bartsocas. Pp 572: £46.00 hardback. New York: Alan R Liss (Chichester: John Wiley & Sons), 1982.

This book represents a selected and edited proceedings of the Third International Clinical Genetics Seminar held in Athens in May 1982. In addition to a large number of clinical case presentations that help to delineate syndromes, and some histopathology, there are several valuable reviews; including 'Sclerosing bone dysplasias' and 'Syndromes and situations associated with congenital clavicular hypoplasia or agenesis'. Opitz presents a major paper on the 'Developmental analysis of human congenital anomalies'. Useful for those involved in skeletal dysplasia.

Multiple Choice Questions on Paediatrics. 2nd edition. By R Meadow. Pp 97: £3.50 paperback. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1983.

More than 170 questions are grouped under 20 subject headings. The second edition is enhanced by having the answers

together with an explanatory commentary on the reverse side of the question page.

Tape/Slide review

Measurement of Height and Weight and the use of Growth Charts. Measurement of Sitting Height, Triceps and Subscapular Skinfolds, Head and Upper Arm Circumferences. By N Cameron. Each set 30 minutes, £20 and £16. Available from Graves Medical Audiovisual Library, Holly House, 220 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex.

Although no one will dispute that growth is an important indicator of health in childhood, and that accurate measurements are vital, the job of measuring children is often delegated to someone untrained in the necessary techniques.

These two sets of tape/slides are made by Dr Noel Cameron of the Department of Growth and Development in the Institute of Child Health—a disciple of Mr R H Whitehouse who pioneered the practice of anthropometry. In them Dr Cameron describes and demonstrates the apparatus, the techniques of positioning and measuring, and the methods of recording on appropriate growth charts used in Professor Tanner's department for all the measurements most valuable in clinical practice. Careful imitation of the instructions, repeated practise, followed by review of the teaching of the programmes should be a reasonable substitute for a visit to the Department of Growth and Development for training. I recommend them for all who wish to measure children accurately.

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