lighted in the authors' attempt to walk a tightrope between providing adequate information, and avoiding technical jargon. The role of the physician in providing long term treatment rather than mere early assessment is perhaps undervalued. The book will provide useful reading not only for parents, but for medical students and professionals of all disciplines caring for the handicapped child.

J A CORBETT

Child Care in General Practice, second edition. Edited by C Hart. Pp 422: £14.00 paperback. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1982

The editor deserves to be congratulated on drawing together the experience and expertise of 43 contributors, the majority of whom are in general practice. This new edition very correctly places considerable emphasis on the preventive and social aspects of primary child care. There are excellent sections on surveillance in the first year of life, surveillance in the pre-school years and health education. In a section entitled 'Essays in Family Care' there are several useful contributions related to the psychosocial aspects of child health. There is however still scope for expansion on the psychiatric aspects of childhood.

The editor set out 'to supplement standard paediatric text books rather than to support them'. Nevertheless the book contains several very practical contributions on clinical care in acute and long term disorders. One of the weaker chapters was on blood disorders which could have been treated more systematically. The latter also included malignant disorders, which deserve a separate chapter. This book is a must for paediatric general practice trainees, as well as many of their more senior colleagues.

G KATZ

Growth Assessment in Childhood and Adolescence. By C G D Brook. Pp 164: £8.50 paperback. Oxford: Blackwell, 1982.

There is much in this book that can be criticised; discussion is often superficial and the style arresting, as if it had been written in a hurry. In spite of this it is a delightful book, a personal and pragmatic account of the main growth problems of childhood by one who has a critical mind and wide clinical experience.

After short introductory chapters on the physiology of growth and the techniques of anthropometry there are

individual chapters on the small, the tall, the fat and the thin child, and puberty and its disorders. Each begins with 'a summary of diagnosis and therapy-orientated management' and a list of pertinent questions which quickly guide the clinician through the maze of differential diagnosis to sensible action. There follow brief discussions of the main causes of the problems in which there are many snatches of personal wisdom, recent research, and probable future developments.

This is not an undergraduate textbook, though it would be easy and stimulating reading for a student; nor is it a comprehensive reference book. It is a practical guide for clinicians and would make an excellent introduction to a series of seminars for trainees in family medicine, community child health, or paediatrics, or entertaining reading for anyone concerned with child health.

J M PARKIN

Shorter notices

Practical Gamuts and Differential Diagnosis in Paediatric Radiology. By K S Oh, J Ledesma-Medina, and T M Bender. Pp 221: £12.50 paperback. Chicago: Year Book Medical, 1982.

The authors acknowledge their debt to *Gamuts in Radiology* produced by Drs Reeder and Felson, and intend their book to act as a companion to it in paediatric radiology. Having selected an anatomical section, one then finds an appropriate clinical or basic radiological finding and turns to the indexed page of the book. A series of up to fourteen differential diagnoses will be found which match with the radiological and clinical findings displayed in two columns. Having located a possible diagnosis, one may then use the key references at the end of each section to seek further information. One can only assess this volume in use as a bench book and a limited acquaintance suggests that it has a valuable place in every paediatric x-ray department. It could also be used effectively in conjunction with a paediatric x-ray film or slide and museum.

Clinics in Endocrinology and Metabolism. Paediatric Endocrinology, Volume 11, No. 1. Edited by J D Bailey. Pp 275: £11.75 hardback. Eastbourne: W B Saunders, 1982.

This volume contains 10 reviews of topics

central to paediatric endocrinology including aspects of growth, intersex, puberty, diabetes, and calcium metabolism. In typical 'Clinics' style, these are authoritative, concise, well referenced, and acceptably readable. This compilation is strongly recommended for education or reference.

Nutrition in Health and Disease and International Development. Edited by A Harper and G Davis. Pp 1,034: £68.00 hardback. New York: Alan R Liss Inc., 1982.

Papers given at the 12th International Congress of Nutrition (August 1981) are here reproduced without editorial modification. The subjects range from world hunger to micronutrients. There is much of value to clinicians working in developing countries and those with a special interest in nutrition. Of potential importance to all paediatricians are papers on malnutrition in hospital.

Paediatric Emergencies, A Houseman's Pocketbook. By C Bacon. Pp 190: £6.50 paperback. London: Heinemann Medical Books, 1982.

This well organised little book from Newcastle gives clear, sensible, and dogmatic guidance on the diagnosis and initial management of the acute medical and surgical problems likely to be encountered by junior staff. Good advice is given on the management of neonatal emergencies before transfer to a specialist unit. Full details of practical procedures, drug doses, and fluid requirements are included. This book should be very valuable to senior house officers, especially those without a registrar.

The Diagnosis and Primary Care of Accidents and Emergencies, second edition. By C Illingworth. Pp 158: £7.50 hardback. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1982.

This second edition should be available in all Accident and Emergency Departments dealing with children. A great deal of essential information has been carefully selected and succinctly presented with important topics suitably weighted. It is full of warnings which, while frightening the novice, have only too often been shown to be necessary. Paediatric senior house officers would find it a useful companion to a standard paediatric handbook.