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 disci-
plines caring for the handicapped child.

J A CORBETT

Child Care in General Practice, second
dition. 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
dition very correctly places considerable
emphasis on the preventive and social
aspects of primary 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 contribu-
tions on clinical care in acute and long
term disorders. One of the weaker chapters
was on blood disorders which
should have been treated more systemati-
cally. 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:

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-oriented
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 snippets 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 com-
prehensive 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 Ledsma-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 con-
junction 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 meta-
bolism. 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 modi-
fication. 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

This well organised little book from
Newcastle gives clear, sensible, and
logistical 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.
Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications,
1982.

This second edition should be available in
all Accident and Emergency Departments
dealing with children. A great deal of
diagnostic 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.