I was unable to find any part of the book where the authors had not accurately reflected current thought and practice in paediatric gastroenterology. This book is strongly recommended to all practising paediatricians, whatever their initial knowledge of gastroenterology. They and their clinical practice will both profit from it.

M J TARLOW

Principles and Practice of Medical Genetics. Vols 1 and 2. Edited by A E H Emery and D L Rimoin. Pp 1944, £85.00 hardback. Edinburgh and New York: Churchill Livingstone, 1983.

This two volume text is, as its title suggests, intended to cover the principles and practical aspects of medical genetics in a comprehensive manner. Much of it is excellent, as one would expect from the very large number of contributions from 'leading names' in medical genetics. However, there are some disappointments and these arise, in my opinion, from a failure of the editors to insist that there is some direct correlation between the importance of the disorder in medical genetic terms and the emphasis this disorder is given in the book. There is only half a page on Huntington's chorea, and the three pages on neurofibro-

matosis leave a lot to be desired, with no advice on the follow up of children with this disorder. Statements such as 'In early and late childhood, brain tumours, optic gliomas, cutaneous neurofibromas, scoliosis, mental retardation, behavioural problems, seizures and cosmetic disfigurement may develop' are not much help without a discussion on the frequency of these complications. These two disorders represent common and important problems in medical genetics and the authors of these sections are world authorities, so there is no real excuse. Hopefully these failings will not detract from the book's many successes. The good chapters are too numerous to name. It is a book for hospital libraries, having a lot to offer to all paediatricians.

MARCUS PEMBREY

Shorter notices

Colour Atlas of Paediatric Haematology. By I M Hann, A Rankin, B D Lake, and J Pritchard. Pp 150: £35.00 hardback. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1983.

This very well authorised text includes

excellent illustrations of blood films and bone marrows from a whole range of haematological and related disorders, both common and most unusual, with accompanying snippets of clinical information. It is intended as a practical manual for haematologists and their technical staff but would be of interest to general paediatricians and helpful for those studying for part II of the Royal College Physicians membership examination.

The Development of the Infant and Young Child. Normal and Abnormal. 8th edition. By R S Illingworth. Pp 300: £11.00 paperback. Edinburgh, London, New York: Churchill Livingstone, 1983.

The new edition of Illingworth's comprehensive book on child development contains a wealth of information, with expanded or new sections on the importance of environmental factors, developmental examination of the older child, and the diagnosis of cerebral palsy. Each chapter has been updated to include relevant recent references, and new (as well as old) photographs and charts. As always, a valuable book, with the distilled wisdom and dogmatism of the author's years experience providing an excellent guide for both newcomers and old hands in this field.