reviewed in these columns by a usually stern critic in 1977. Those hoping for a second edition of the same high standard will not be disappointed. Four of the original 23 contributors have bowled out and 17 new authorities have been recruited; there are ten extra chapters, though fewer than 30 pages more. There has been some pruning but the writing is succinct, immensely well documented as before, and remarkably even. Again most chapters deal with a single organism and the new, which had bare mention before and now get a chapter to themselves, include chlamydia; viruses uncommonly associated with infection at this period (such as the Epstein-Barr virus, the rabis, and the respiratory syncytial virus); and some protozoan and helmith infections which apart from ascaris and Trichomonas vaginalis are rarely found in Europe and North America.

Aside from Staphylococcus aureus and its associated illnesses and diarrhoeal disease; bacterial infections which were perhaps rather underrepresented in the first edition in one long chapter are now split into six. The first deals with sepsis and meningitis; the next three with infections of the respiratory and urinary tracts, bones, and joints; and the fifth with focal infections. Another single organism that might be described as the United States' infectious perinatal cause célébre of recent years—the group B streptococci—is covered separately. Two other chapters on obstetric factors associated with infections of the fetus and newborn infant and on control of infection acquired in the nursery also appear for the first time. The chapter on immunology, with new authors, has been completely rewritten; this reviewer found that difficult subject easier to read and digest than in the first edition and more relevant to day to day clinical practice.

There is no book to challenge Remington and Klein in breadth of coverage and authority on the subject of fetal and neonatal infections wherever in the world these may occur. This second edition is an essential work of reference for anyone concerned with the subject. The only fact to be lamented is that in just 7 years the price has nearly trebled.

PAMELA A DAVIES


Two physicians write authoritatively about their experience in adults but less authoritatively about other people's recorded experience of the disease in children. For example one may gain the wrong impression that while the incidence of post-biopsy jejunal perforation in adults is 0/5000 (at least in the hands of the authors using their own suction capsule) in children it may be as high as 6/51. The infant and child are awarded only two columns in an otherwise excellent chapter on clinical manifestations in which the more and the less common adult presentations are discussed and exemplified.

Perhaps we are equally guilty of forgetting adult aspects of childhood disorders. In coeliac disease as in cystic fibrosis, inflammatory bowel disease, and chronic liver disorders there is a need for long term follow up of our patients into adult life. Nothing exemplifies this better than the question of malignancy in coeliac disease. Our efforts to ensure compliance with the diet, even in adolescence, are largely based on the belief that withdrawing gluten lowers the risk of lymphoma. In an excellent chapter on malignancy the authors point to the lack of proof that this is so. Only a study of cases treated from childhood will resolve the issue.

The chapters on history, pathology, and immunology are thorough, well referenced, and reason enough for urging one's general library to buy Cooke and Holmes. A chapter on diagnostic investigations is a good account of effete tests and the final chapter on aetiology shows how little progress we have made in the 33 years since Dicke wrote his MD thesis. The book is well written and illustrated throughout, and is good value. In contentious areas the authors are discursive rather than didactic. For example they quote various regimens of gluten challenge but make no recommendations. In practice the kind of question to which one most frequently seeks an immediate answer is 'Can I drink Blogg's home brew?' or 'is Cherub's Delight safe?'. To answer these you will need to obtain the Coeliac Society's biennial list of proprietary foods as well as Cooke and Holmes.

M S TANNER


Any paediatrician with an interest in metabo-