reflects its North American origins in selecting infectious diseases as a clinical speciality and in giving it wide ranging scope. There will be those on this side of the Atlantic who will see much of its contents as the core of general paediatrics, or as the interface between microbiology and other speciality areas. Dr Marks has, in single handedly writing this helpful book, proved himself a lucid and powerful advocate for his field of interest. His entire emphasis is on clinical practice and he provides clear guidance on common problems as well as coverage of the exotic.

The first section reviews immunisation and antimicrobial treatment, the latter being sufficiently up to date to include the modern cephalosporins and semisynthetic penicillins. This is followed by a chapter dealing with congenital, perinatal, and neonatal infections. The bulk of the book is organised around an organ system approach with useful additions dealing with topics such as infection of the immunocompromised child and nosocomial infections in closed populations.

In several weeks of 'test driving' this manual I found it to be among the best guides to infectious disease that I have used. The extensive contents section and the index provide for ready access, and the individual sections are liberally subheaded. The busy clinician will be particularly grateful for the clear lists of differential diagnosis, and in his spare time he can browse through the impressive collection of references. In places, the author's enthusiasm takes him into areas of management beyond the boundaries of infectious disease, and here I was less confident in the content. The black and white illustrations of rashes suffer inevitable problems, and that attempting to show scleral icterus behind a face mask must have brought a blush to the face of the publisher! These minor faults, however, provide light diversion rather than grounds for serious criticism.

Dr Marks deserves praise for having produced a truly practical manual of infectious diseases.

D J JOHNSTON


Although written in German and relating to the whole of Europe, this delightful booklet on *Paediatrics in the 18th Century* might be useful also to all paediatricians interested in the history of their professional speciality. Professor Oehme reviews precisely and critically the onset of paediatrics, providing a large amount of historical information in a small and easily readable publication. The book is structured into chapters concerning among others the newborn, diseases of infants and of older children, infectious diseases, skin diseases, neurological and psychosomatic diseases, and finally social paediatrics and treatment. In the last section, biography and bibliography, 144 medical authors of the 18th century and their main contributions are alphabetically listed. Twenty nine of them were British. In fact the reader will realise to what a large extent English and Scottish scientists have contributed to the birth and early development of paediatrics. Although the term 'paediatrics' was created in Basle by Theodor Zwinger in 1722, in a Latin text *Paediatrica practica*, and although the most famous book on children's diseases of that century was the one by Rosén von Rosenstein published in the Swedish language in Stockholm in 1764, the most important achievements in paediatrics in the second half of the 18th century were made in England. To give a few examples, William Cadogan was the first to be called a children's doctor; he wrote the first book on nursing: *An essay upon nursing and the management of children from birth to three years of age* (London 1748). George Armstrong established in London in 1769 the first dispensary for children. Michael Underwood published in 1784 the first classical textbook in paediatrics *Treatise on the diseases of children*. Other famous physicians whose discoveries, opinions and publications are reported in this book include Whistler, Glisson, Sydenham, Whytt, Morton, and Linth. The book is illustrated with portraits of the most important personalities discussed and the front pages of the most important paediatric publications of the 18th Century.

ANDREAS PANETTONI


This American book deals with what in this country would be loosely called health education. The programmes and policies, however, go much further than anything that was yet attempted in Britain. The areas covered include smoking, cardiovascular fitness, stress and mental health, and substance abuse. The strategies are school based and involve teaching staff and a variety of professionals from disciplines including health, social work, and psychology known collectively as special service providers.

The book reviews research in each area and is well referenced at the end of each chapter. Emphasis is rightly given to short and long term assessment of the effects of interventions on the children's health as they grow up.

There is a review of the deleterious effects of divorce on parent's and children's health, and a useful chapter on interdisciplinary methods of working and their problems.

In general the book presents a balanced view of a difficult and controversial area, which is so important that none of us involved with children's or adult's health can afford to ignore it.

There is much good sense in this book, although at times the heavily worded text tends to disguise it. There is also much that could be applied to preventive health promotion in other countries—after all which child would not wish to enrol in a class which goes under the title of the 'Feelin Good Program'?