in charge of emergency services who has the health of the whole child as his or her responsibility and can assess what ought to be done and how well things are done based on the child’s overall wellbeing—in fact emergency departments designed specifically for children and appropriately staffed.

This is a book to dip into in the library but not to buy.

CYNTHIA M ILLINGWORTH


This book is based on the author’s many years of experience with the problems of deaf/blind children and their parents. It has been written to meet their needs, particularly during the first few years, and supplements her earlier book, Understanding the Deaf/Blind Child. The book first covers some of the general problems and needs of the deaf/blind child emphasising the important role of the parent in providing appropriate experience for the child. This is related to the development of visual and auditory function in the normal infant.

The second section of the book is devoted to the programme itself, divided into six stages, each with a general introduction. These stages gradually introduce activities designed to develop the child’s awareness of the world around him and encourage the development of communication and independence. The programme describes ways in which the child can be helped to use residual vision and hearing but also emphasises throughout the importance of using a multisensory approach to pass on information to the child. An integral part of the whole approach is the ‘hands-on’ method, where the child is placed with his or her back to the adult so that the adult’s hands guide the child’s.

This is also the best position to teach the signs that are used in conjunction with speech for communication.

Throughout the book it is obvious that the author cares about the whole family, of which the disabled child is one member. There is a wealth of practical advice on all aspects of the child’s care which may appear daunting at first. This is balanced by the sympathetic approach of one who has faced many of the difficulties herself. There are few professionals with much expertise in this field and I am sure that this book would be very helpful to all who come into contact with children with combined visual and auditory impairment.

SUSAN BELLMAN


Children who are or have been sexually abused are increasingly being recognised. Many health areas are currently attempting to establish effective procedures and plans of management which are based on a therapeutic approach.

Sexual abuse is common, its manifestations protean and the effect, both short and long term, may be devastating for the child and family. Child sexual abuse within the family has been published at an opportune time. The authors (Ciba Foundation study group) represent the different professions involved in the management of sexual abuse. Their aim was to prepare a handbook to provide practical guidance to other professionals and in this they succeed.

The book begins with a clear if perhaps over simplified outline of sexual abuse, its presentation, patterns, and effects. General and, later, more detailed, principles of management are discussed and in particular the pitfalls of multidisciplinary working. Much emphasis is put on family therapy which is not always available, and individual therapy and group therapy with children of similar ages have an important place too. Clearly we have a great deal to learn and a long way to go in the legal management of child sexual abuse.

The major concern should be the child but the law seeks to punish the offender, and while sexual abuse is a crime a longer term response to improve and preserve what is good in a family is the aim.

The Devon Police procedural instructions are described and are an impressive example of what is already taking place. Clear but rather brief sections discuss ways of talking with children, prevention, and education. The summary and recommendations are a basis on which to make local plans. Finally there is useful list of references.

All paediatricians see sexually abused children and this book with its clear outlines and selected case reports will give a good overall view of current thought and for those of us more actively engaged in child abuse a good discussion document.

JANE WYNNE


This book is basically a disappointment, as its title does not reflect the range of subjects covered inside.

One would hope that a book of this sort should be, (as is promised in the Preface), a review of current information to keep practising paediatricians up to date. The layout of the book is difficult to scan and the details given, of some fairly recherché conditions, tend to dilute some useful details. The whole book is not problem orientated, which reduces its value for those who must solve problems and make clinical decisions. There are some useful hints about the common association of diabetes and autoimmune thyroiditis; the chapter on Kawasaki disease is a useful updating review, as is the chapter on complex congenital heart disease.

It is always a problem, however, when reading books from the United States as the commonly used drugs have different names and this leads to confusion, especially in the treatment of asthma: I think it would be unusual practice in the United Kingdom for intravenous aminophylline to be given before the use of nebulised adrennergic drugs.

The final chapter on accident prevention is a sensible review of the hazards, and underlines the paediatrician’s responsibility, not only in prevention for the individual patients, but also in the role of advising the community and the law makers. Perhaps the most disappointing chapter is the one on substance abuse in pregnancy. It makes no mention of narcotic abuse, concentrating only on alcohol. I think they missed a valuable opportunity here of helping today’s paediatrician. They also omitted a chapter on solvent abuse, which seems symptomatic of the delay it takes for editors to draw together current topics and turn them into books!

GRAHAM CLAYDEN


This book consists of 16 chapters devoted to cataloguing the haematological abnormalities which have been described in various paediatric disorders grouped ac-