in charge of emergency services who has 
the health of the whole child as his or her 
responsibility and can assess what ought to 
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.

CYNTIA M ILLINGWORTH

The Deaf/Blind Baby. A programme of 
Care. By P Freeman. Pp 152: £7.95 paper-

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, particu-
larly during the first few years, and supple-
ments her earlier book, Understanding the 
Deaf/Blind Child. The book first covers 
some of the general problems and needs of 
deaf/blind child emphasising the impor-
tant 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 de-
voted to the programme itself, divided into 
six stages, each with a general introduc-
tion. These stages gradually introduce ac-
tivities designed to develop the child’s 
awareness of the world around him and 
courage the development of communica-
tion and independence. The programme 
describes ways in which the child can be 
helped to use residual vision and hearing 
but also emphasises throughout the import-
ance 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 com-
bined visual and auditory impairment.

SUSAN BELLMAN

Child Sexual Abuse Within the Family. 
CIBA Foundation. Edited by R Porter. 
Pp 156: £12.95 hardback, £5.95 paperback. 

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 manifesta-
tions protein 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 
in the management of sexual abuse. Their 
aim was to prepare a hand-book 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. Gen-
eral, and later, more detailed, principles of 
management are discussed and in particu-
lar the pitfalls of multidisciplinary working. 
Much emphasis is put on family therapy 
which is not always available, and indi-
vidual 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 
legal 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 instruc-
tions 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 recom-
endations 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 out-
lines 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

Common Pediatric Disorders. (Clinical 
Pediatrics Series, vol II). Edited by 
Marcel Dekker, 1984.

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, especi-
ally 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 nebulsed adre-
nergic drugs.

The final chapter on accident prevention 
is a sensible review of the hazards, and 
underlines the paediatrician’s responsi-
bility, not only in prevention for the indi-
vidual patients, but also in the role of 
advise the community and the law 
makers. Perhaps the most disappointing 
chapter is the one on substance abuse in 
pregnancy. It makes no mention of nar-
cotic 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

Hematologic Manifestations of Childhood 
Diseases. By A D Lascari. Pp 461: DM 

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