sphingolipidoses, the mucopolysaccharidoses, the glycoproteinoses, mucopolipidoses, together with acid lipase deficiency diseases and glycogenosis type II.

The penultimate chapter deals in a clear manner with the general approach to the treatment of lysosomal storage diseases, the final chapter being a 'Look to the Future'.

Thoroughly recommended!

A AYNLEY-GREEN

A Classified Bibliography of Controlled Trials in Perinatal Medicine 1940-1984. Prepared by the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit. Pp 414. Oxford University Press, 1985.

This book is a directory of those perinatal research studies that have sought to compare alternative care strategies and have used randomisation to avoid or minimise selection bias. The 2770 studies selected therefore represent the best guide to practice available from the published reports, and it is extremely useful to have the references brought together in this way. The classification and layout, once understood, make it reasonably easy to find the references dealing with any particular question. I am sure anyone working in the perinatal field will want to have access to a copy.

P R F DEAR

Handbook of Endocrine Tests in Children. Edited by I A Hughes. Pp 141: £9.95 paperback. John Wright and Sons, 1986.

The interest in paediatric endocrine conditions has steadily increased over recent

years, with a consequent increase in endocrine testing in children not only in specialised endocrine units but in many general paediatric units and on occasions, with the older child, in mainly adult units. There is a bewildering array of tests available and therefore a clear need to limit and select the endocrine tests most appropriate for the individual child.

This excellent book by Dr Hughes can truly be regarded as a handbook and fulfils a very great need on the paediatric ward and will be of great help to paediatric junior (and senior) medical staff.

The introductory chapter is brief but discusses adequately the general principles of endocrine testing in children. The main body of the book consists of a description of the various endocrine tests applicable to each endocrine gland, with clear instruction about performing the test and then a much needed paragraph on interpretation of the results. This is followed for each endocrine gland by a series of case illustrations, with a short case history followed by relevant investigations and comment. The case illustrations are chosen to cover common clinical presentations in paediatric endocrinology that may have similar clinical features but the results of wisely chosen endocrine tests may suggest different diagnosis.

The book is completed with an appendix of normal values for the various endocrine tests.

I am sure that this handbook will be popular and should find a place on every paediatric ward likely to be involved in endocrine testing. The format of the book should appeal to junior paediatric staff and also undergraduate medical students. Endocrinology is a rapidly changing field and perhaps a further edition will be necessary in a few years to update the various endocrine tests and protocols.

C S SMITH

Hyperkinetic Children: A Neuropsychosocial Approach. By C K Conners and K C Wells. Pp 160: £10.00 paperback, £19.75 hardback. Sage Publications, 1986.

This book is number seven in a worthwhile series on developmental psychology and psychiatry. It is written by Americans who have contributed extensively to the field. In particular, the Conners scale is a widely used instrument for assessing hyperactivity.

The book provides a comprehensive and readable account from a mid-Atlantic perspective of research and theoretical aspects. It is directed towards the researcher in child psychopathology rather than the paediatrician interested in keeping up to date in the field.

NAOMI RICHMAN

Childhood Asthma—What it is and what you can do. By N Buchanan. Pp 95: paperback. Doubleday, 1986.

This paperback book is intended to explain asthma to parents who are concerned their child might have the condition and to those parents seeking further information about their child's diagnosis. The topics covered are admirably wide, but some suffer from lack of detail. Written in Australia, no allowance has to be made for giving out addresses of Antipodean Asthma Associations, but the importance of maintenance treatment could be amplified and it should be explained that beclomethasone is a steroid.

The friendly type and pleasant illustrations made easy reading, while the contents are reassuring and 'middle of the road'. Parents looking for general information on asthma would find it in this book and may be prompted to ask more questions of their doctor after reading it.

M G MILLER