medical emergencies, but there is a little about trauma. A helpful section on cot deaths shows experience and sensitivity. Much of the text, however, is either too brief to be useful or is irrelevant to doctors in an accident and emergency department. There are many pages about the inpatient management of renal failure and meningitis, but there is nothing about local anaesthesia, minor trauma, or the diagnosis of a cough. There is no mention of drowning or osteomyelitis. The doses of drugs for treating lead encephalopathy are given, but there is no advice on the size of endotracheal tubes or the dose of erythromycin. I was alarmed at the suggestion that exchange transfusion might be needed in nitrazepam or barbiturate poisoning.

Paediatric experience is useful in an accident and emergency department, but training in such a department would also benefit paediatricians. Better books on paediatric emergencies are available, and this book will not be joining them in my accident and emergency department's library.

R N ILLINGWORTH


This short book is divided into two main sections, acute abdominal pain, which makes up the first 60 pages in 11 short chapters, and recurrent abdominal pain, which is covered in a further 10 chapters. The author has drawn widely from his large experience in dealing with these two worrying problems. He offers a sensible approach in dealing with the consultation, history, and physical examination. While the importance of acute appendicitis is dealt with fully, the author is at pains to emphasise that acute non-specific abdominal pain makes up a large part of surgical practice, and the importance of a conservative approach is emphasised. There is a short, but useful, section on acute abdominal pain in the tropics and sub-tropics. Recurrent abdominal pain is sensibly dealt with; the author, like most of us, has been brought up with the teachings of the late John Apley.

This book is written by someone who clearly is a great clinical teacher and who has a good sense of humour, which is not often found in medical writing. It should certainly be read by all paediatric senior house officers and surgical registrars, and I am sure that, as the author has intended, many general practitioners will find it a useful book as well.

V MILLER