labelled diagrams are clear. The quality of most of the nuclear magnetic resonance images is reasonable, but several of the ultrasound images are poor by modern standards.

The book has little to offer the paediatrician other than providing some idea of the sort of anatomical information which can be gained prenatally and on the basis of which he or she may be approached by an obstetric colleague for discussion and advice.

P R F DEAR

Urological Complications. Medical and Surgical, Adult and Pediatric. By FF Marshall. Pp 451: £62.00 hardback. Year Book Medical Publishers Inc, 1986.

Surgical complications are a lucrative business these days, not only for litigation lawyers but also, it seems, for medical publishers. During the last year the subject of surgical complications has been comprehensively covered by a number of new titles, the most recent of which is Dr Marshall's book which deals with adult and paediatric urology. As two thirds of the book is devoted to adult practice it is a relatively expensive purchase for specialists in paediatric urology.

There is, however, some common ground covered in the adult chapters, particularly those dealing with stone surgery, urinary diversion, and trauma. Dr Keith Light's excellent contribution on the problems of artificial sphincter surgery is enough to deter most paediatric urologists from embarking on this complex work.

Contributors to the paediatric section include some of the household names of American paediatric urology; for example, Dr Jeffs writes on bladder exstrophy, Dr Devine on hypospadias, and Dr Mitchell on urethral valves and reimplantation. Routine procedures, a fertile source of complications, have not been overlooked with chapters on orchidopexy and circumcision. There is even a chapter on the complications of antenatal intervention. This book, with its wealth of technical detail, will appeal to paediatric surgeons and urologists.

D F M THOMAS

My Name is Today. By D C Morley and H Lovel. Pp 359: £2.95 paperback. Macmillan Ltd, 1986.

This book commemorates the 40th anniversary of UNICEF and pleads the

cause of the most needy children in our world. Its stated purpose is to help the privileged to see and understand the problems of the underprivileged. Those concerned with children in any way must look through this book. It will make you think, smile, frown, and sometimes grimace.

The format is unusual and innovative; it is a book of ideas in pictures. There are 187 cartoons and graphs, drawn or modified by Mrs Gillian Oliver, interspersed with a dialogue between the authors, and followed by a long reading list. The theme is the health and wellbeing of the underprivileged children of the world.

Since the method is the cartoon, it is natural that there is a dependence on slogans and oversimplification of issues. One example appears in the section contrasting expenditure on armaments with that on education, homes, and health care (fig 91, p 157). 'The choice is ours'—declares the heading, but unfortunately it's not as simple as that!

There are numerous cartoons which are ideologically appealing but politically naive or not fully worked out. Some poetic licence is permissible for medicopolitical cartoonists whose purpose is to stimulate, and whose audience is not that of the academic journal. But when another objective is to inform, greater caution is needed when mixing statistical data from political and medical sources. Some figures and comments are over optimistic (fig 158 and p 299 'Many European mothers now suckle their infants for 1-3 years'), and others are difficult to believe (fig 54, p 94. Do the poor really have a lower percentage of underweight children than the economically elite? Which country?). Some figures are complicated and need more explanation (fig 60, p 102, and fig 173, p 322).

I had problems with the references and reading list. Sometimes there is a string of references in relation to a figure, and it is not clear which one is the source of the data. For example, there are nine references for fig 132. Occasionally I believe the most pertinent reference on the topic is not quoted. For example, the best reference to the 'pinch and scoop' method of measuring salt and sugar for oral rehydration (fig 140) is that of Ellerbrock (*Tropical Doctor* 1981;11:179-83). Fig 151 is about refrigerators for vaccines, but no reference is given to the three practical books on the subject from the Appropriate Health Resources and Technologies Action Group (AHRTAG).

This book is important, informative, infuriating, but challenging. The world is

full of inequalities, and paediatricians concerned to minimise the effects of this unfairness on the well being of children will receive both ideas and stimulation from this book.

WILLIAM A M CUTTING

Primary Pediatric Care. Edited by RA Hoekelman, S Blatman, SB Friedman, NM Nelson, HM Seidel. Pp 1776: £55.00 hardback. CV Mosby Co, 1987.

This weighty North American textbook has over 200 contributors and is aimed at those who look after children in a primary care setting. The expressed aim of the book is to provide a scientific basis to primary care and to focus on 'the determinants and reflections of health and disease' rather than adopting a more traditional pathophysiological approach.

The book is divided into nine parts. Part 1 opens with an 'over view of pediatric care' and includes an account of morbidity and mortality in the young. Part 2 deals with history taking and communication skills. Part 3, on principles of patient care, concentrates on nutrition, immunisation, screening for disease, and pharmacology. Part 4, entitled 'The reproductive process' considers reproductive physiology, contraception, factors which may adversely affect the fetus, perinatal medicine, and modern obstetric techniques. Part 5 is devoted to neonatal issues including parental support. Part 6, on psychosocial problems, includes such topics as the effect of television on the family, parental abuse by children, school health, and childhood and adolescent behavioural problems. Parts 7 and 8 are the largest sections of the book and deal, respectively, with 68 common presenting signs and symptoms each considered separately (including abdominal pain, cough, haematuria, and limp) and 87 specific clinical problems (including acne, diabetes, leukaemia, phimosis, and sudden infant death). The book concludes with details of managing emergencies.

This book is a fascinating source of information for those concerned with 'ambulatory pediatrics'. The editors' intention to focus on primary care is carried through in practice—for example, having dealt with accidents as the major cause of death in childhood, there is later an extensive section on accident prevention which even includes such details as 'safety rules when meeting a strange dog'.

The book is attractively laid out, has up to date references, and is on the whole very