With more and more use of nursery facilities for small children there is growing concern about a possible increase in serious infections, from Hib meningitis to hepatitis. The second chapter, *Infections in Day-Care Centres*, complements the epidemiological part of the first, and gives a useful summary of what we do and do not know about the risks involved and what can be done to minimise them.

Two scholarly reviews—of antiviral treatment and of perinatal enteroviral infections—are followed by four articles taking a practical approach to the subjects they cover. There are reviews of the management of pulmonary infections in the immunocompromised child, of childhood tuberculosis, and of urinary tract infections. This last, while usefully practical in microbiological matters and commendably free of dogma in discussion of the management of reflux, disappointingly omits any appraisal of different imaging techniques and their different indications in practice. Finally, Sixby's chapter, *Routine Immunisations and the Immunosuppressed Child*, is a *tour de force*. Extensively referenced, to 203 sources, this is a highly readable and very useful summary of important information for all those helping to care for these children.

As part of an add-on series keeping infectious diseases in the forefront of paediatricians' minds, this collection well deserves the attention of the wide audience to whom it is addressed.

J S KROLL

Respiratory and Alimentary Tract Diseases. Edited by H S Rosenberg and J Bernstein. Pp 218: £100 hardback. Karger, 1987.

Some books give the impression that they have been organised in the spirit of a dinner party whereby the conversation is a product of those who attend rather than the reason for their invitation. This book is volume 11 in a series entitled *Perspectives in Pediatric Pathology*. It begins with a short tribute to that Edinburgh pioneer of the discipline Dr Agnes Macgregor by her successor Dr Douglas Bain; they are now both sadly deceased. The reviews that follow are of very diverse appeal. Dr Robertson gives a good account of the experimental background of neonatal surfactant deficiency and there is a comprehensive review by Dr Cutz on pulmonary haemosiderosis. Dr Landing and his co-

workers contribute two chapters. The first is an account of the pulmonary lesions in 14 children with thalassaemia major that would more appropriately have been published in a journal. The second has no pretensions to being a pathological treatise as it is devoted to the normal anatomy of the myenteric plexus as shown by flat mount preparations. There are two chapters related to the oesophagus: one on mucosal biopsies and the other on the pathophysiology of reflux and oesophagitis. The book concludes with a review of Indian childhood cirrhosis and a form of megacolon indigenous to the African Bantu.

Paediatric pathology has become too large and complex a field for any kind of perspective to be gained into two organ systems in so slim a volume. The book lacks cohesion and the authors would have been far better selecting eight reviews on a more well defined area like the childhood liver, large intestine, or the neonatal lung. It is a book best seen in the context of the series and as such is more an acquisition for the reference library than the individual.

A J BARSON

Decision Making in Child Neurology. By D W Dunn and L G Epstein. Pp 217: £41.50 hardback. B C Decker Inc, 1987.

The authors of this book state clearly in the preface that they see the work as a practical guide for the paediatrician who is dealing with a wide range of neurological problems; the aim is to give a guide to paediatric neurological thinking. They also state that it should be useful for revision and in preparing lectures.

The book is part of a much larger series with a similar format, which comprises two pages for each subject. On the right hand page there is an algorithm to guide the reader through making a decision; on the opposite page is an expanded set of notes. A variety of clinical problems are covered; specific diagnoses—for example, meningitis; presenting features—for example, acute ataxia; and practical problems—for example, brain death. Some subjects lend themselves better than others to this format and often the algorithm does not add a great deal to the notes which are in general concise and well thought out, up to date and practical, though of necessity somewhat didactic.

One might quibble with some aspects of drug treatment and recommendations, but

I suppose the excessive use of phenobarbitone just reflects North American usage. There is also a tendency to suggest investigation of neurological disease rather more extensively and earlier than we would in the United Kingdom.

The book is up to date and well referenced. It gives a practical, concise guide to the diagnosis and management of a wide range of subjects including most of the common problems in child neurology, and some that are less commonly seen by the average paediatrician—for example nystagmus or acute vascular problems. It is not so much a book to read for an in depth assessment of a particular problem, but I consider it to be a useful book (not only for revising for exams and preparing for lectures as the authors suggest), but a practical guide which would be of more use on the wards than in the reference section of the library.

S H GREEN

Manual of Child Neurology. Owen B Evans. Pp 435: £32.50 paperback. Churchill Livingstone, 1987.

The author states that this book is a manual and not a text book and that it is written for 'paediatricians and other physicians involved in the primary care of children.' The book is divided into eight sections with the first two being on neurological examination and neurodiagnostic procedures. The following sections cover relevant groups of neurological disorders in childhood. Each chapter within a section has a short list of 'selected readings.' The illustrations are a combination of line drawings by the author and photographs that seem mainly to be of muscle biopsy specimens or computed tomograms. There are a large number of tables most of which are designed to give the reader a very wide range of differential diagnoses in any one clinical situation.

With at least a handful of good books on paediatric neurology now available it is difficult to see where this book will fit in and make a contribution. In many of the sections the author starts with very basic statements about the structure and function of the nervous system, but then goes on to give the reader extensive lists of differential diagnoses (some of which are a little questionable) but no guidance as to which disorders are common or which are rare. The balance of space given to different disorders is very variable and many of the opinions expressed are hardly contemporary. Indeed, in the 'selected read-