ings' that accompany each chapter at least half are for publications that are more than 10 years old. While the author has written a book that is aimed at those in primary care, and may have been one of the first to do so, it is very difficult to see that this is going to truly enlighten. Sadly I fear that it will only confuse.

GWILYM P HOSKING

Manual of Paediatric Emergencies. Edited by J R Zanga. Pp 511: £32.00 paperback. Churchill Livingstone, 1987.

The subjects in this book were selected from experience with the major presenting problems found in a busy city emergency paediatric unit in the United States. The sections on cardiopulmonary resuscitation, major medical, surgical, and traumatic emergencies, and child abuse are excellent. Common presenting symptoms for medical conditions, such as headache and abdominal pain, are barely mentioned. The lack of information on minor injuries is also significant. At least 50% of children presenting to the urban accident and emergency departments in the United Kingdom have had minor trauma, but many important aspects in this area of work — for example, hand injuries and epiphyseal injuries — are not included in the clinical sections of the book.

The manual is valuable for the diagnosis and management of children presenting with major illness or injury, but has limited value as the 'ready reference book . . . designed for the emergency department.' Several more comprehensive books already fulfil this role.

W J ROBSON

Respiratory Disorders of Infants and Children. Jan A Kuzemko. Pp 101: £14.50 paperback. Castle House, 1987.

This book starts with useful revision chapters on the basic anatomy, embryology, and physiology of the respiratory tract. Of the remaining 13 chapters several are too brief to be very useful and are little more than lists. The chapter on symptoms and signs I found vaguely irritating; for example, the author says that the word 'stridor' causes confusion and should be abolished, but he fails to suggest an alternative and proceeds to continue to use the word himself.

The chapter on upper respiratory tract infections is good; it is practical, detailed, and helpful especially the section on epiglottitis and viral 'croup'. Similarly, there is much that is good in the chapter on asthma, as one would expect from an author with a known special interest in the subject. It is disappointing, however, to see him perpetuate the teaching that only 2–5% of children have asthma rather than the 10–15% that is now generally accepted. He lists seven possible investigations of varying degrees of complexity without any guidance as to how appropriate any of them would be in the every day clinical management of asthma.

This rather theoretical approach is a drawback for a book that purports to be aimed at the primary care physician. Similarly, any general practitioner reading this book would have a negative reaction on seeing immune deficiency, α_1 antitrypsin deficiency, and collagen diseases included in a list of 'Common causes of wheezing'. Overall, I would regard this as very much a 'curate's egg' of a book, whether the reader is a medical student, general practitioner, or paediatrician.

A N P SPEIGHT

Fetal and Neonatal Pathology. Edited by Jean W Keeling. Pp 590: £99 hardback. Springer-Verlag, 1987.

After many years of drought we are now being presented with new books on children's pathology every few months, and I suspect that there is not a paediatric pathologist who is not writing a chapter for somebody's book at this moment! This book has one major author-editor with many others contributing chapters. About half the book is on general topics such as perinatal autopsy, the placenta, and examination of the fetus; and the rest is on the pathologies of organs and systems. The standards of the different sections varies greatly. The naked eye pictures are generally good but the microphotographs are very variable and often poor.

The data presented is insufficient for a specialist pathologist and the whole is aimed at the general pathologist who deals with fetal and perinatal deaths. It is insufficient to enable the general pathologist to deal with infantile diseases such as Hirschsprung's disease, but gives an indication of the procedures involved. It would enable him to diagnose hyaline membranes but he would know less about the factors of their

production or of effects of intensive care on the newborn lung than does the paediatric neonatologist. There is much internal cross referencing but for the non-specialist the index could have been made wider; the inclusion of 'congenital megacolon' or simply 'megacolon' would have helped in the finding of 'Hirschsprung's Disease'.

To say that a book is good in parts is not to label it a 'curate's egg.' This book gives the general pathologist a rapid and convenient insight into the pathologies of this age group. It is recommended for inclusion in the libraries of general hospitals and paediatric departments.

J L EMERY

Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes Mellitus. S J Brink. Pp 454: £34.00 paperback. Year Book Medical Publishers, 1987.

This book provides a comprehensive review of paediatric diabetic management from an American perspective. The editor and main author, Dr Brink, draws on his experience gained in part as senior staff paediatrician at the Joslin Clinic and he combines a critical approach to clinical practice with a strong awareness of psychological issues and a great respect for the child with diabetes and their families. In addition, data from the youth registry set up by Dr Brink and including clinical information on over 1000 young patients (aged 1–21 years) are used as a basis for the management policies advocated.

The book is laid out in three sections: Part I is a practical manual of care; Part II covers new theories, treatments, and associated problems; and Part III discusses preventative medicine and counselling. I found the middle section most successful; the contributions on epidemiology, genetics, and immunology provide a concise up to date summary and excellent advice is provided on the prevention and management of ketoacidosis and on sensible dietary guidelines. The final section on preventative medicine and counselling draws on theories of normal child development to discuss methods of managing the psychosocial aspects of diabetes; much good sense here tends to get lost in the jargon.

The section on practical management covers chapters for children under 5 years, 5–9 years, and the 10–21 year age groups separately. Each part is followed by a psychosocial commentary written by a psychologist or social worker. The sections are designed to be used independently and as a

result are highly repetitive. They cover little new ground, but the transatlantic perspective is interesting with its emphasis on outpatient care from diagnosis and the assumption that a multidisciplinary team will be available to offer home based educational support.

It would be a pity if either layout or jargon discouraged paediatricians from taking advantage of Dr Brink's fine critical review of the paediatric literature on diabetes and its humane clinical application. It should be available to the team in all paediatric diabetes outpatient departments.

A-L KINMONTH

intrauterine development of the skull, the effects on head form of intrauterine compression and passage through the birth canal, intraventricular haemorrhage and the epidemiology of craniocerebral trauma in the first two years of life before describing the more expected subjects of diagnosis, management, and outcome.

With function and development in the infant brain so intimately mingled there must always be uncertainty and therefore concern about the effects of trauma. Any book which reduces this atmosphere of mystery is to be welcomed, and therefore I have no hesitation in recommending this volume to all those concerned in the care of these unfortunate young patients.

R HAYWARD

Principles of Pediatric Neurosurgery. Series editor A J Raimondi. **Head Injuries in the Newborn and Infant.** Edited by A J Raimondi, M Choux, C Di Rocco. Pp 292: DM 118 hardback. Springer-Verlag, 1986

Complications of Paediatric Surgery. James Lister. Pp 294: £29.50 hardback. Bailliere Tindall, 1986.

First a welcome to a new series, *Principles of Pediatric Neurosurgery*, of which this volume is the first. In the United Kingdom the treatment of the head injured child is less than ideal: there are no full time paediatric neurosurgeons and some neurosurgical units do not even have specialised facilities for the care of paediatric cases. Yet trauma (and particularly any cerebral component) is the commonest cause of death in patients under 14 years of age and we are all well aware of the complexities of the child who has suffered a non-accidental injury.

If the principles of management for the older child are not so very different to those of the adult, the same can certainly not be said for the newborn and infants who are the subject of this book. That we all survive the traumas of child birth apparently unscathed seems miraculous enough but how do subsequent injuries affect a brain that is still involved in the vital processes of myelination and dendritic arborisation? The contributors to this book come from all over the world and they deal in turn with such basic subjects as the

The main purpose of this volume is to bring to the notice of the general surgeon, and particularly the surgeon in training, the complications that may follow quite simple procedures in children and to indicate how they may be avoided. This is the stated aim of the book. The intention was to avoid the neonatal surgery that is undertaken in specialist units and the less common conditions of children.

The text is liberally illustrated and the numerous illustrations (clinical photographs, x ray films, and diagrams) are often useful for diagnosis. Neonatal surgical conditions are given space — for example, four x ray pictures of infants with oesophageal atresia each showing a slightly different aspect. The interesting presentation of neonatal surgical problems is balanced by the common conditions such as inguinal herniae. It seems a pity in discussing the complications that nothing more is said about strangulation than that it is rare in childhood. The point that it is only likely to occur in the very young infant is not made, whereas incarceration can occur at any age. Conditions such as appendicitis,

intussusception, and undescended testes are reviewed. The book would seem to be of most value to paediatricians along with surgeons in training rather than to experienced general surgeons. For the former groups it gives a good oversight to many of the conditions requiring surgery in infancy and childhood.

D G YOUNG

Radiology of the Pediatric Chest. Alvin H Felman. Pp 484: £80.00 hardback. McGraw-Hill, 1987.

In his preface the author indicates his intention to produce a book both for clinicians who wish to interpret chest radiographs and for radiologists who need to be aware of the clinical manifestations of disease. This approach is difficult and often fails in its objective, but this is a successful and useful book.

Sections deal with congenital abnormalities, neonatal pulmonary disorders, the mediastinum, roentgenographic patterns in pulmonary disease, infections, and infestations. The final two sections deal with a miscellany of conditions including tumour and trauma and with the more recent techniques (by a coauthor) of computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and ultrasound, although relatively little mention is made of the potential of nuclear medicine. The range of diseases covered is very wide. The text is adequately comprehensive in clinical, pathological, and radiological content. The numerous illustrations are generally good and the references profuse and pertinent.

For the paediatrician who wishes to acquaint himself with chest radiology this is a commendable book but the price, which is very high, many may feel prohibitive. The radiologist may well feel that his money is better spent contributing towards a modern edition of 'Caffey.' For those in training this is an educative and readable text which could usefully be available in departmental libraries.

D G SHAW