that in some of the key early sections of the book there were no colour photographs of the retina in a subject that so perfectly and importantly lends itself to colour illustration. How frustrating to find then right at the back of the book a series of gorgeous coloured photographs tucked away as colour plates out of context.

This is a book for the library and not for the individual paediatrician. But, perhaps of greater importance, it might be taken as a challenge to British neonatal medicine and neonatal ophthalmology to define our own database and current state of good clinical practice in the prevention and management of retinopathy of prematurity.

DAVID BAUM

Recent Advances in Paediatrics. Vol 8. Edited by R Meadow. Pp 284: £28.00 hardback. Churchill Livingstone, 1986.

'Recent advances in paediatrics' is now in its eighth edition and Roy Meadow has again put together 15 chapters of topical interest to bring us up to date in various fields. As always, the reader will find more of interest in one chapter than another but on this occasion he will find most subjects of practical everyday importance, and there will be something new to be learnt in most.

The acquired immune deficiency syndrome starts off the book and Drs Jones and Watson give a comprehensive review of the subject up to the time the manuscript was written. The field is changing so rapidly that perhaps a short update should also be included in the next edition. The same applies to the third chapter on growth hormone deficiency, again a rapidly developing field where growth hormone is being considered for differing groups of patients. Professor Milner and Dr King have carefully reviewed their subject, although I feel that the section on anthropometry was perhaps a little short compared with the amount of space related to biochemical tests.

The chapters on single dose treatment of urinary tract infection, neonatal jaundice, hearing screening in the newborn, near miss cot death, and idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura were all excellent, with up to date information and practical advice. They should be read by all practising paediatricians. Those chapters on modern diagnostic imaging and Doppler echocardiography are fairly technical but an education on developing fields of paediatric

practice. I also like the detective story of Indian childhood cirrhosis.

Child psychiatry is very much part of paediatrics and the two chapters on anorexia nervosa and child sexual abuse discuss these subjects in depth and are practical in approach.

The eighth edition of this book should be put on the working shelf next to the seventh edition.

P R BETTS

Connective Tissue Disease: Molecular Pathology of the Extracellular Matrix. The Biochemistry of Disease. Vol 12. Edited by J Uitto and A J Perejda. Pp 553: \$94.75 (USA/Canada), \$113.50 (all other countries) hardback. Marcel Dekker, 1987.

Connective tissue is a complex mixture of components, including collagen, elastin, proteoglycans, and various adhesive proteins such as laminin and fibronectin. Widely distributed in structures such as bones, arteries, tendons, basement membranes, skin, intestines, pleuropertoneal lining, joint capsules, and cartilage, there is limitless opportunity for inborn inherited and acquired diseases. These can commonly present to paediatricians in children of all ages. Obvious examples include osteogenesis imperfecta, congenital arterial fragility, and various subgroups of epidermolysis bullosa.

The book authoritatively covers connective tissue biochemistry, histology, and electron microscopy, and clinical aspects include collagen fibril variations in Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and osteogenesis imperfecta, the molecular pathology of fibrotic diseases such as pulmonary fibrosis, and normal healing. Basic information on collagen protein structure and assembly, elastin and microfibrillar structure, organisation of basement membranes, and adhesive interactions are well covered and presented, but there is only scanty information on the molecular biology of collagen.

This is a work for basic scientists and researchers with a special interest in connective tissue structure rather than the practising clinician. Nevertheless, the relevance of basic science to clinical practice is very well illustrated by this book. The price and detailed basic science will probably limit this book to the libraries of academic physicians, rheumatologists, dermatologists, geneticists, and basic scientists interested in this rapidly expanding field.

F M POPE

Clinics in Oncology. Late Effects in Successfully Treated Children with Cancer. Vol 4. No 2. Edited by M E Nesbit Jr. Pp 195-355: £15.00 hardback. W B Saunders Company, 1985.

The aim of treatment of childhood cancer is a healthy well adjusted adult. Unfortunately, the treatments used in malignant disease give rise to physical and psychosocial side effects, many occurring after treatment has finished. This book collects together the experience of several centres and discusses the late side effects that occur.

Chapters are divided into those dealing with dysfunction in organ systems and those concerned with the adverse effects seen in particular malignancies—for example, acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, Ewing's sarcoma, etc. Second malignancies and problems encountered in the patients' offspring are also covered.

There is much useful information contained in this book with many of the references relating to the 1980s.

Psychosocial aspects are covered but not as fully as physical problems and the authors emphasise the need for further studies in this field. All the authors save one hail from North America. This is most noticeable in the chapter on the role of the nurse in late effect evaluation, and though some of the information will not be applicable in all countries, the chapter contains much sensible advice on monitoring the child and aiding and educating the family.

This book gives an interesting and useful overview of the problems that need to be considered in any child treated for malignant disease. It is reasonably priced at £15.

A ESSEX-CATER

Atlas of Skeletal Dysplasias. By R Wynne-Davies, C M Hall, A G Apley. Pp 646: £95.00. Churchill Livingstone, 1985.

Some books, like people, have more quality the more we know of them. *Atlas of Skeletal Dysplasias* is so: it feels good, it looks good, and it is good.

Assembled by a threesome of orthopaedic geneticist, paediatric radiologist, and orthopaedic surgeon, it is a collector's catalogue of bone dysplasias from the cradle to the grave, arranged in order of the principal feature of the dysplasia.

The text is succinct and informative, the style granite, the result, an accessible bran tub with a few up to date references on

each dysplasia and helpful cross references in the index—for example, on bow legs, cone shaped vertebral bodies, or short metacarpals. The clinical photographs, growth charts, and comparison of x-rays of—for example—hands or pelvis at similar and differing ages in different patients emphasise the astonishing variety in each dysplasia.

All who are puzzled by problems of failure to grow or short stature will be grateful to the authors for sharing their long and profound experience with those of us who see but a few patients. Their Mrs Beeton of bone dysplasia will amplify the standard references—Spranger, Langer, and Weidman's *Bone Dysplasias* and Smith's *Recognisable Patterns in Human Malformation*.

Alas, there is a problem. Some of the illustrations do not show what their captions declare, particularly the infant's skulls and lateral spines; perhaps these can be improved in the next edition. It is a pity too that there are no captions beneath the introductory normal x-rays. Why no mention of idiopathic bow legs under

metaphyseal dysplasia? Do the authors still advise babygrams? It would have been helpful to have a list of conditions diagnosable at birth.

But one likes a friend better for having faults one can talk about; I can enthusiastically welcome this book and recommend it to all paediatricians. A Mrs Beeton with four eggs, a rich diet indeed but digestible.

SIDNEY SMITH

Sonography of the Infant Hip: an Atlas. By Reinhard Graf and Peter Schuler. Pp 276: DM150 hardback. VCH Verlagsgesellschaft, 1986.

One of the initial troubles with ultrasound examinations is the difficulty in endeavouring to relate the images produced to anatomy and pathology. Most find a period of apprenticeship the easiest way to overcome this problem. The applications of ultrasound to that eminently suitable subject, the young child, continue to increase.

This timely publication allows one to share the experience of pioneers of sonographic examination of infants' hip joints.

The book is essentially a profusely illustrated atlas of the normal and abnormal appearances of the hip joint, with clearly annotated anatomical details. Introductory chapters provide photographic illustration of the correct positioning and scanning techniques, with sections on instrumentation, adjustment, and documentation. The first half of the book is essentially descriptive, in which the spectrum of acetabular dysplasia and hip dislocation is well presented. The second half of the book is mostly concerned with the quantitative evaluation of hip sonograms, with associated angular measurements, which Dr Graf in particular has developed.

Not all ultrasonographers would feel inclined to use this technique or abide by the classifications, but the qualitative value of the illustrations in these sections remains useful and informative, and as a practical atlas the work can be commended.

D G SHAW

Correction

An error occurred in the paper entitled 'Aetiological factors in leukaemia and lymphoma', by McKinney, Cartwright, Saiu, *et al.* 62:279-87.

Throughout this paper, for the term 'common null cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia' please read 'common acute lymphoblastic leukaemia'.

This error occurs only in the context of this paper.