make this the first of a series of BPA handbooks.

I would like to acknowledge Dr Martin Moncrieff's assistance in reading the book and providing helpful comments.

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Immunization in Practice. World Health Organization. Pp 361: £3.50 paperback. Oxford University Press, 1989. ISBN 0-19-261545-9.

This book is an excellent example of a teaching manual with its emphasis on participation rather than lectures. It is clear and simple without being patronising. I now know how to sharpen needles, store water for reuse, and to put the box of vaccine in the shade of a tree, if my car breaks down.

The WHO gives immunisation a high priority. Training large numbers of health workers to administer vaccines is vital and they have drawn up a training programme for these people. This programme has been used, modified, and rewritten. They have now published this as a training manual. It is primarily for workers in developing countries, but I think its approach to training and practical ideas have much to offer people in 'developed' countries. How often do we forget the importance of the advice 'be reliable and punctual', 'be polite and friendly'?

The opening pages discuss approaches to training. There is an emphasis on helping people to understand by means of exercises, questions, case studies, and discussions, rather than lectures. There is also specific advice on planning a training session. The rest of the book is divided into eight modules for field workers on practical aspects of running an immunisation programme—for example, vaccines and how to look after them, preparing for an immunisation session, how to evaluate your own immunisation programme. Each module consists of clear, simple information with appropriate practical work. Wide-spread use of the programme should have ironed out most problems. The error in labelling the illustrated syringe (0.5 instead of 0.05) is presumably because in practice a real syringe is used for demonstration purposes.

This material would be essential for anyone working in the field of immunisation

in developing countries. The original modules have apparently not always been easily obtainable. The book gives a valuable insight into the problems faced by immunisers in developing countries—for example, the emphasis on maintaining a cold chain and the practicalities of organising outreach sessions in the open air. It also illustrates the positive attitude to immunisation by the WHO (children should be immunised even if unwell). It is also a very good model of teaching methods applicable in all countries in many fields.

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Diseases of the Fetus and Newborn: Pathology, Radiology and Genetics. Edited by G B Reed, A E Claireaux, and A D Bain. Pp 812: £135 hardback. Chapman and Hall, 1989. ISBN 0-412-27990-8.

This book attempts to mould into one volume information for the pathologist, radiologist, and geneticist. The text is in four sections: (1) general aspects of disease, (2) systemic pathology, (3) radiology and imaging, and (4) medical genetics. In the preface the editors say that their targets are the pathologist, laboratory scientist, obstetrician, and paediatrician.

To reach such a wide audience they have recruited 59 contributors from six countries, including 29 from the United States and 20 from the United Kingdom. Editorial control of this number of contributors must be extremely difficult and American and English spellings are used in various chapters so that one reads about 'paediatrician' and 'pediatrician' and 'foetus' and 'fetus' depending upon the origin of the author. Another problem faced by the editors was delayed publication. On page 637, Drs Simoni and Brambati from Milan state at the end of their chapter on fetal karyotyping: 'In December 1985, when we wrote this chapter, we focused the technical and diagnostic problems related to first trimester CVS on the basis of our experience that was just lower than 1,000 cases. By now (June 1988) our experience has been extended to 2520 diagnoses . . .'. Contributors who submit their chapters early have more work in updating but the Italian doctors managed to include six references from 1986 and two from 1987 in their updated chapter. The death of Dr Douglas Bain, one of the coeditors, in

January 1987 must have been a major reason for delay in publication.

Overall this is a book for the pathologist rather than the clinician. Of the contributors there are only one or two obstetricians and paediatricians but no neonatologist. The longest section, on systemic pathology, is probably the best, although there are some areas of overlap. The section on radiology is quite short but is liberally illustrated with radiographs, ultrasound scans, and magnetic resonance images.

The fourth section, on medical genetics and prenatal diagnosis, begins with a scholarly discussion of genetic screening by Dr Seamus Cahalane from Dublin. He begins by quoting from Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*: 'These are begot in the ventricle of memory, nourished in the womb of pia mater, and delivered upon the mellowing of occasion'. These words, although uttered as pretentious jibberish by the pedant are as apt a description of the chapter as is the irony of the play's title. Later in this section Drs Alan Michelson and Stuart Orkin from Boston provide a concise summary of prenatal diagnosis by analysis of fetal DNA. Gene mapping, DNA cloning, southern blotting, and restriction fragment length polymorphisms all crop up as expected in modern textbooks, but they have a role in prenatal diagnosis not only of haemoglobinopathies but also of phenylketonuria, ornithine transcarbamylase deficiency, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and cystic fibrosis.

The editors have been largely successful in their aim to produce a tripartite textbook. Future editions would be improved by correction of areas of overlap. This book should be most useful to practising and training perinatal and general pathologists and a copy should be available in all pathology departments. It will also provide a useful reference for practising obstetricians and paediatricians and each large maternity hospital should have one. At a price of £135 I doubt whether many paediatricians will buy a personal copy.

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Practical Genetic Counselling. By Peter S Harper. 3rd ed. Pp 306: £25 paperback. Butterworth, 1988. ISBN 0-7236-1019-3.

A 'simple book' is offered by the author,