yet he provides a discursive exposition of the whole subject from basic principles to details of latest DNA technology. He succeeds in appealing to his intended audience of practising clinicians. The first 10 chapters are general, covering mendelian and non-mendelian disorders, chromosome anomalies, dysmorphology, carrier detection, prenatal diagnosis and the organisation of a genetic counselling clinic. The section on X linked disorders conveys its complexity and will convince readers of the necessity for clinical geneticists!

The second half of the book covers 'specific organ systems' with chapters which include oral and craniofacial disorders, deafness, environmental hazards, genetic risks in cancer, in addition to predictable topics. Here there is a tendency to repeat some information from the early chapters, and much space is given to clinical description rather than genetics per se. Many non-genetic conditions are briefly included. There is a comprehensive index and a list of lay societies involved in inheritable diseases. There are some excellent tables but these could have been used much more extensively in the organ system section where many lines of text convey little information and abbreviations are not much employed.

The style is fluent and persuasive. Professor Harper displays clear empathy with his audience, shining through as a physician whose appreciation of the human aspects of his subject is paramount and to which his knowledge is subjugated. Anecdotes, imperatives, and aphorisms appear regularly, rendering the reading most enjoyable and inviting us to match both his enthusiasm and professional rigour. His concluding chapter touches on eugenics and looks to the future. The book is practical, informative, and stimulating—highly recommended.

G Hambleton
Consultant Paediatrician
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital


'The dramatic advances in endocrinology...form...an extraordinary chapter in the history of science and medicine. The profound effect...on paediatric endocrinology...is of special interest' to paediatricians. The words are those of Dr Mel Grumbach who provides the forward to this comprehensive resource text book.

There are 31 contributing authors, 19 based in the United Kingdom and the remainder originating from Europe or the United States reflecting the editor's affiliations with the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology and the Lawson Wilkins Society.

A number of chapters by the same authors as the 1981 edition have required little revision but others are comprehensively updated and retain their excellence, such as chapters on intersex (MO Savage), the short child (JM Parkin), the neurohypophysis (J Perheentupa), adrenal deficiency and excess (M Forest). Several chapters with similar subject headings to the first edition are written by different authors, for instance the first chapter on fetal growth (DJ Hill and RDG Milner) provides a fascinating review of paracrinology, the tissue signals responsible for early embryological growth and later endocrine development.

The Middlesex approach to investigation, description, and management of short stature is thoroughly aired in chapters on normal growth and endocrine control and the management of short stature. Many readers hoping for practical advice will find these parts of the text somewhat theoretical, unduly mathematical, and at times unconvincing. The Middlesex authors redeem themselves with excellent accounts of puberty and its disorders.

Other slight disappointments were the chapters on gynaecology (lack of paediatric orientation with inappropriate therapeutics) and the thyroid gland (no mention of the consequences of late treatment of congenital hypothyroidism and the spectacularly improved prognosis after neonatal screening).

Further on in the book, however, there are useful chapters on hypothalamic hormones (A Grossman), the adrenal cortex (J Honour), and adrenal hyperplasia (M New and P W Speiser). There is an outstanding account of calcium disorders (K Kruse) and much sound scholarship and practical advice on diabetes mellitus (B Weber and F Bonnici).

The entirely new section on imaging (computed tomography, nuclear magnetic resonance, and ultrasound) is successful except that several of the anatomical descriptions and figures would have benefited from additional line diagrams, arrows, and landmarks. Normal laboratory values and endocrine function tests (IA Hughes) are available in abundance.

This is, therefore, a provocatively different second edition which complements the first. It is for paediatricians and endocrinologists but they might be surprised by a lack of print quality and many typographical errors in a book of such horrendous price. It is disheartening that 'Next' produces its 'directory' of 474 superbly printed colour pages for sale at £3 when the costs individuals or libraries £125 to build this important text book.

P G F Swire
Consultant Paediatrician, Leicester General Hospital


This book will be very popular for all those at the sharp end of paediatrics, whether they are working in hospital, the community, or general practice. There is an unusual but wise choice of subjects, described in a fairly didactic way, and these cover most of the common and often difficult decisions that have to be made.

As might be expected from these authors there is a highly detailed discussion on growth development, and immunisation including good advice on AIDS. The accompanying charts and diagrams are well selected and highly relevant. Those with a passion for flow charts will not be disappointed, though the excellent one on resuscitation of the newborn will no doubt be in the pocket of most neonatal housemen, unless already taken from the authors' original article. The more convoluted flowchart on the collapse of a child is harder work but contains a mass of information.

The chapter on nutrition and fluids is particularly clear and easy access to all the usual formulae will be welcomed. Child abuse is dealt with in a wise way, going beyond the usual description of injuries, giving good advice on case conferences, reports, procedures, and courts.

The chapter on practical procedures is clearly written by someone still at the height of his technical skills and will be invaluable to all new housemen.

It is good to see brief but informative chapters on death, paramedical services, and immigrant groups.

This book is more than a vade mecum but would not see someone through.
membership. It is essentially practical and as such fills a gap and will be much appreciated by paediatric staff and general practitioners.

P R H Barbor
CONSULTANT PAEDIATRICIAN
University Hospital, Nottingham


The authors deserve sincere congratulations for the enormous amount of work that they have put in to the preparation of what is, and for many generations will remain, a historical document about the origins, aims, considerable achievements, and plans for the further development of the British Paediatric Association.

The book is an impressively comprehensive factual account of the BPA, from its origin in 1928 when six doctors met to discuss its foundation, to 1988, when there are over 2000 members. It is illustrated and enlivened by 54 photographs of members, with other illustrations, and by 78 profiles and biographies of past and present members.

Subjects discussed include the organisation of the BPA, the work of the Council and academic board, the surveillance unit, the numerous specialist groups, and the many diverse committees on all aspects of child health at home and overseas.

Other subjects include accounts of previous annual scientific meetings (Windermere, Scarborough, Aviemore, Lancaster, Harrogate, and York), the establishment of the Diploma in Child Health and the Archives of Disease in Childhood, and the various medals and awards, including the valuable Heinz Fellowship for doctors in developing countries.

There are extensive sections on the hoped for integration of the child health services (Court and Brotherston reports), and on the thorny question of the future of the BPA in relation to the Royal Colleges, perhaps as a College or Faculty of Paediatrics.

The book is a major and important contribution to the whole subject of paediatrics.

R S Illingworth
Sheffield


Three slim volumes successfully review many respiratory diseases where standard texts provide little more than a paragraph or two. Forty three authors have written on a miscellany of topics where knowledge is still growing, as is evident by the conciseness of many chapters. This text therefore allows rapid reference for many of the more unusual respiratory conditions in childhood. It would be even more rapid if a single complete index appeared at the back of each volume. Lung diseases may not always be easily compartmentalised, for example, into either airway or interstitial disease. Thus differential diagnoses are often discussed within general chapters on pulmonary function, immunology, radiology, and the roles of lung biopsy and bronchoalveolar lavage.

There are 17 chapters covering the vast range of pathologies causing pneumonia or pneumonitis, or both, including pneumonitis in AIDS and bone marrow transplant recipients. Neonatal and viral pneumonias have relatively less prominence, but these are well covered in other textbooks. Other chapters include lung diseases caused by physical and chemical agents, drugs, lymphoproliferative and vascular disorders, renal, rheumatoid, neurocutaneous, and neoplastic diseases. Pulmonary sarcoid, haemosiderosis, and an array of other rarities complete the collection. All subjects are extensively referenced and numerous radiographs and histopathological slides, albeit in black and white, very adequately illustrate the text.

These books will be most suited to the paediatric respiratory centre, which will need to consider whether a reference text that may soon need to be updated is worth the price. However, I do not foresee a cheaper or British equivalent in the near future.

M Samuels
PAEDIATRIC REGISTRAR
National Heart and Lung Institute, London


I received this book initially with some mystification—what could I say about a paediatric radiology text? Looking more closely I discovered it to be compiled by a paediatrician and aimed at general paediatricians and radiologists. However, its format—illustrations accompanied by questions with answers and explanations overleaf—makes it clear that its chief market will be with candidates for membership. That stage in my life is mercifully over and leafing through the book served to remind me what a relief that was. On offering it to those of my colleagues still on the wrong side of the membership hurdle, however, they fell on it with ravenous enthusiasm and passed it among themselves jealously. There is no doubt that it fills a yawning gap in the examination aids market. The comparatively recent establishment of 'paediatric part II' means that almost any paediatric self assessment test will be in demand, with preparation for the slide section in particularly short supply.

This book fills the gap admirably. The reproductions were generally good—though some chest films reproduced poorly. The range of subject is broad and appropriately general, avoiding the obscurities so beloved of examination candidates, but much less evident in the real examination and almost absent in clinical practice. It would therefore be churlish to complain that more refined imaging is covered only briefly, with even ultrasound covered only thinly. As such, though very suitable as a basic postgraduate text, it would not really serve as a reference volume, despite a helpful index.

My colleagues so approved of this book that it was only with difficulty that I retrieved it to write this review. With over 200 illustrations the price is very reasonable, though it would still make a substantial dent in an individual's book budget. It would, however, be a modest purchase for any library and I would highly recommend it.

C M Wright
PAEDIATRIC REGISTRAR
Guy's Hospital, London


The Yale Psycho–Clinic opened in 1911 for the assessment and treatment of children who had problems at school. It is principally associated with the name of Arnold Gesell who was responsible for a long series of