membership. It is essentially practical and as such fills a gap and will be much appreciated by paediatric staff and general practitioners.

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The British Paediatric Association 1928–1988. By J O Forfar, A D M Jackson, and B M Laurence. Pp 228, hardback. British Paediatric Association, 1989. (Copies can be obtained from the BPA, price £5.)

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enormous amount of work that they have put in to the preparation of what is, and for many generations will remain, a historical document about the origins, aims, considerable achievements, and plans for the further development of the British Paediatric Association.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

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Interstitial Lung Diseases in Children. Vol I, II, and III. Edited by Lourdes R Laraya-Cuasay, Walter T Hughes. Pp 583: £221.50 hardback. CRC Press Inc, 1988. ISBN 0-8493-4300-3.

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 pathogens 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.

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Paediatric Radiology. By Christopher O'Callaghan. Pp 189: £19.50 hardback, Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd, 1989. ISBN 0-7234-0978-1.

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 ravening 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 text 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 rarified imaging is covered only briefly, with even ultrasound covered only thinly. As such, though very suitable as a basic post-graduate 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.

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The Embryology of Behavior. By Arnold Gesell. Pp 274: £20 hardback. Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1989. ISBN 0-632-02314-7.

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

observational studies in which the behaviour and movements of infants and children were painstakingly filmed, described, and recorded. He set norms for behaviour in the laboratory against which an individual could be assessed and in doing so laid the foundations of the developmental assessment techniques that are in use today the world over. It is therefore fitting that when the MacKeith Press launched a series of *Classics in Developmental Medicine* under the series editorship of Ross Mitchell they included among the first volumes a book by Gesell. Interestingly, they chose one of his later more theoretical and speculative books rather than one of the earliest 'atlases' of behaviour. *The Embryology of Behaviour*, subtitled *The Beginnings of the Human Mind*, was first published in 1945 and describes the development of behaviour in the fetus and infant. It draws on Gesell's own films of infants and the work of human developmental neurologists such as Wilhelm Preyer and Davenport Hooker as well as the galaxy of embryologists who were active in that period—such names as D'Archy Thompson, Barcroft, Kuo, Carmichael, Coghill, and Needham.

To the contemporary developmentalist, it is perhaps surprising to see how familiar the thinking is despite limitations of knowledge and techniques. For instance at that time direct studies of human fetal behaviour were limited to Davenport Hooker's films of dying embryos and it would be another 50 years before Heinz Prechtl would give us the chance to watch ultrasound films of babies in utero, yet Gesell understood the rudiments of fetal behaviour. Likewise, he discusses gene expression though it was his belief, like his contemporaries, that the genetic material was a protein. We also cannot fail to be impressed by the way this book moves so easily through the fields of biology, embryology, physiology, and psychology in a way that would indeed be rare today.

Perhaps for a neonatologist the most interesting thing about the book is that it gives an accurate picture of the knowledge and understanding of the fetus and newborn at exactly the point when neonatology was born. Indeed, it is reasonable to claim Gesell as one of the founders of neonatal paediatrics as his work was very important in drawing attention to the particular problems of the small and sick newborns.

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The Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Cardiac and respiratory mechanisms and interventions. Edited by P J Schwartz, D P Southall, M Valdes-Dapena. Pp 474: price not stated, paperback. Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, 1988. ISBN 0-89766-463-9.

Many of the cognoscenti of the sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) research fraternity gathered by the shores of Lake Como in May 1987 to discuss various aspects of sudden infant death. Their programme was organised by the three editors of this volume, which records the bulk of the deliberations. Papers were grouped into five main sections: an overview of the main problems, the identification and management of at risk infants, the provision of support for the families including an assessment of the value of home monitoring, and the possible role of cardiac and respiratory mechanisms respectively in causing death. Contributions were generally kept short to allow ample time for discussion, but alas the latter has not been included in the text. However, there are summaries of a series of workshops held towards the end of the meeting with the aim of reaching a consensus in the more contentious areas.

Also present in Como, and conducting their own meeting, were SIDS parents who now have an organisation known as SIDS Family International. As it is parents who have raised money for some of the research reported here, their presence was appropriate. They discussed, among other topics, the need for those dealing with the families at their time of crisis to receive special training, and deplored the fact that in some countries postmortem examination is either not routine in cases of sudden unexpected infant death, or is conducted to imperfect standards.

The scientific sessions do not seem to have engendered a great deal of new material, and many of the papers covered work already published. Results from the large United States National Institute of Child and Human Development Cooperative Epidemiological Study of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome were reported here, but many of the risk factors have been identified previously. What I found most instructive and interesting were the papers dealing with the gradual maturation of sleep state patterns and their interdependence with temperature and cardiorespiratory mechanisms. They made it easier to understand how a sudden failure of function can occur and leave no

apparent pathological trace. But the final workshops cautioned that much further work was necessary to prove the respectability and reproducibility of tests of cardiorespiratory function, and to standardise laboratory measurements so that different studies can be more properly compared.

This volume will be a useful source of references and perhaps the most up to date summary of a subject, which far from being a single entity has so many facets that must concern all paediatricians.

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Lorion

Problems in Pediatric Emergency Medicine. Edited by Robert C Luten. Pp 296: £26.50 hardback. Churchill Livingstone, 1988.

This volume is the first in a series entitled *Contemporary Issues in Emergency Medicine*. There are four chapters on general issues, followed by nine on various types of paediatric emergency, each by a different author. Its scope and depth suggest that the American approach to the subject is more professional than the British, several of the authors being specialists in paediatric emergencies.

The early general chapters contain many sensible observations and useful tips. Luten, writing on recognition of the sick child, stresses the value of careful observation as compared with investigations, pointing out that the more experienced the paediatrician the fewer the tests. Simon goes further, saying of investigations that 'at their worst, they can mislead, delay, cause needless pain and radiation exposure, add to cost and even be responsible for clinical deterioration'. For smaller units he recommends the use of protocols for management and ready consultation with and transfer to a larger centre. On the practical side he commends the skill of nurses in putting up drips and the use of the intraosseous route, into the tibia, when veins are inaccessible. The chapter on child abuse, by Ludwig, is misplaced in this volume because it deals with causes and their remedy rather than recognition and management.

The remaining chapters cover trauma, poisoning, and acute illness in the major systems. Their content is similar to that found in English textbooks, though often more detailed and discursive. Transatlantic differences emerge here and there: the

Arch Dis Child 1990; 65: 1522-1523
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