of crystalloid rather than colloid in shock; the injunction to start anticonvulsants after a single convulsion and an abnormal electroencephalogram; recommendation of nebulised L-adrenalin for croup but no mention of ipratropium bromide for wheezy infants; strong advocacy of activated charcoal for various poisonings. But surely a positive Babinski response is not flexor over there (p 257)?

Any paediatrician who has to deal with emergencies will learn a lot from this book. It is intended for digestion at leisure rather than for quick reference in a crisis.

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Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia. Edited by P Puri. Pp 161: £54.60 hardback. Karger, 1989. ISBN 3-8055-4807-9.

The publication of this book is very timely as there is at present much emotive debate concerning the optimum management for newborns with diaphragmatic hernia. The editor is to be congratulated on producing a most readable summary of the large relevant literature in 13 chapters of uniformly high standard. The initial chapters on epidemiology, embryology, and pathophysiology are essential before tackling the later more clinical chapters.

Centres in four countries review their clinical management and the reader can compare the results of immediate surgery, prolonged preoperative stabilisation, and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation. The chapter on fetal surgery is confined to animal work with only a tentative recommendation for a trial in the human situation. It is intriguing to read that there is uncertainty from embryological models as to whether lung hypoplasia is the primary abnormality or secondary to the diaphragmatic defect.

The reader cannot fail to review his or her own views after reading this provocative and authoritative text. The chapters are well referenced and there is an exhaustive index. This book is highly recommended for personal bookshelves as well as for libraries.

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Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia. Edited by Eduardo Bancalari and J Thomas Stocker. Pp 441: £50 hardback. Hemisphere Publishing Corporation, 1988. ISBN 0-89116-681-5.

This book provides an excellent review of a disease that has evolved greatly since Northway's first description. A balanced overview of the pathogenesis of bronchopulmonary dysplasia is followed by nine chapters, which in well referenced detail, examine the role of oxygen toxicity, barotrauma, inflammation and the use of animal models. Chapters on pathophysiology include histology, lung function, radiography, the upper airway, and pulmonary vascular components of this disease. It becomes clear that despite current respiratory management, which may include antioxidant treatment, surfactant, steroids, and alternative modes of ventilation, we are still inadequately avoiding morbidity and mortality. The final section has a discussion of long term prognosis, outpatient management, and ethical issues.

This book is easy to read, well indexed, and provides a good background for everyone dealing with the complexities of this respiratory disorder. A single concern is that statements on management are not always backed up; this is probably due to the inadequate number of good studies on treatment. For example it may not be appropriate to keep oxygen saturation between 85 and 95% as suggested, as the lower end of this range would include hypoxaemic levels. This valued book highlights that this disease clearly needs further research into understanding, treating, and preventing what appears to be largely an iatrogenic problem.

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Paediatrics and Child Health. A Handbook for Health Professionals in the Third World. Edited by H M Coovadia and W E K Loening. 2nd ed. Pp 526: £8.95 softback. Oxford University Press, 1988. ISBN 0-19-570-445-2.

Within our shrinking world this comprehensive paediatric textbook from Africa is particularly useful. Not only does it cover virtually all common paediatric conditions

seen in Europe, but also deals with the tropical infections that can enter Britain daily by that modern disease vector—the jumbo jet. The book comes from the University of Natal with a strong team of 30 authors. Despite its 526 pages it does not appear heavy in any sense and frequent line drawings and figures add interest and clarity. Photos are restricted to the dermatology section and most are useful despite being in black and white. It is clearly and sympathetically written and the first chapter on history taking and examining children, mainly for undergraduates, is excellent and aptly describes a paediatrician as one who 'must obtain genuine pleasure from examining and dealing with children'.

Inevitably there are some points of disagreement and apparent deficiencies. Many paediatricians, including the WHO advisors, no longer believe that diarrhoea with severe dehydration requires intravenous plasma expanders, blood, and bicarbonate, but Ringers' lactate in adequate amounts can correct both hypovolaemia and acidosis. A consideration of coma now appears incomplete without reference to a measure of unconsciousness like the Glasgow coma score. To cover all the routine immunisations in a page and a half means some important issues are glossed over. In many tropical countries seroconversion to oral poliovirus vaccine is poor. The schedule proposed (p 188) does not include the extra dose of this vaccine shortly after birth, which is the current WHO, Expanded Programme on Immunisation recommendation. Inadequate and inconsistent referencing is irritating. The bibliography is only to textbooks. In a number of places the authors refer to specific papers and studies, sometimes only by the author's name (for example, H Scott, p 134), sometimes without any reference (for example, p 121 a follow up study on kwashiorkor), and sometimes with reference but no authors (for example, tables 8.5 and 8.6 on p 163).

If you are bound for Africa this book could save you taking both a paediatric and a tropical medicine book. If children from Africa come to you in Britain, this is a ready reference that doesn't expect you to be a tropical expert.

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