It is a book to buy for treatment course lib-
raries, physical education departments, think-
ing and committed orthops, and academic
libraries.

IAN MCKINLAY
Senior lecturer (community child health)


Those who criticise colour atlases as being full
of pictures but of little substance would do a
great injustice to this guide to paediatric
haematology. The colour photographs of
blood and bone marrow are quite spectacular
and committed.

Haematology. Colour
and bone marrow are quite spectacular
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authors have added a good deal of new
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Pp 247;

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Dr Barbara Ansell, and

the retirement of Dr Barbara Ansell, and

PAEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGY

In summary this book attempts to bring up
to date the less well known areas of paediatic liver disease, and is fascinating reading for the
select group of paediatricians concerned with
these problems, but it will not be of interest to
the general paediatrician and neither is it
meant to be.

DEIRDRE KELLY
Consultant paediatric rheumatologist

Pediatric Hepatology. Edited by William F Balistreri, J Thomas Stocker. (Pp 498; £100 hardback.) Hemisphere Publishing Corpora-


This book is based on a seminar on paediatric hepato-biliary disease, which is the third of a series of seminars on paediatric disease held at
The Gant in Aspen, Colorado. It is greatly to
the credit of our American colleagues that they
managed to tear themselves away from the ski
slopes long enough to produce this excellent
book, which provides an up to date view on
many aspects of paediatric liver disease.
The contributors include paediatricians, patho-
gists, and basic scientists and are drawn from
many centres in the United States, notably the
Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Cincin-
nati, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology,
Washington, and the University of Colorado,
Denver.

It does not attempt to be a comprehensive
textbook but provides recent information and
an insight into many enigmatic and difficult
aspects in paediatric liver disease. It is very
definitely a book for specialists or subspecial-
ists who have an interest in liver disease and its
associated problems. I would think its general
appeal is limited as it is not comprehensive
enough to use as a reference text for general
paediatricians and would be most helpful for
those paediatricians researching a specific problem.

The topics include many of the ‘usual’ prob-
lems such as infantile cholangiopathy, biliary
atresia, total parenteral nutrition associated
cholestatics, an update on α1 antitrypsin defi-
cency, and an obligatory, but rather brief,
chapter on liver transplantation.

I was interested by the attempt to unravel
the mysteries of Reye’s syndrome and its
metabolic mimickers (William F Balistreri),
and a comprehensive and well written chapter
on systemic disorders associated with hepato-

The chapter on fulminating hepatic failure
was well discussed (Ronald Sokol), and was
one of the few chapters with a good guide to
the management of this fatal condition. Less
impressive were the chapters on acute and
chronic hepatitis, which were rather mundane
and out of date with little discussion of the
new and exciting advances in autoimmune
hepatitis, hepatitis C, antiviral treatment, and
vaccine prevention of this illness. The chapter
on liver transplantation was too brief and not
sufficiently up to date for the readership of
experts for whom the book is intended.

There is a practical section on the pathol-

ogy of inherited metabolic disorders (Kamal G
Bikle) that is well written, and provides a

in metabolic disease. However, the large number
of metabolic diseases included meant that the
description of their pathological changes was
less helpful to an expert but useful as a general
source of information.

I found the chapters on classification of
hepatic tumours (J T Stocker) and hepatic
allograft pathology after transplant (Rodney S
Markin) very clear with helpful summaries of
these difficult areas.

There is much emphasis on the difficulties
of making a diagnosis in many curious
conditions. Disappointingly, there is very little
practical help given in the management of
these disorders. I was particularly disappointed
to find that there is no mention of the psycho-
social aspects of liver disease and the necessity
to provide support for families of children
with such devastating illnesses.

As in most published seminars, the chapters
tend to read like scripts for a lecture, but
despite this drawback the topics are well
reviewed and well illustrated and would be
most helpful to paediatricians in training, or
practising in gastroenterology, hepatology, or
metabolic disease.

Paediatric Rheumatology Update. Edited by Patricia Woo, Patience H White, Barbara M Ansell. (Pp 247; £30 hardback.) Oxford Uni-


This book aims to present current thinking,
both in management and research in the field
of rheumatology. It is based on an
international symposium that commemorated
the retirement of Dr Barbara Ansell, and is
not aiming to be an up to date comprehensive
textbook but to focus upon changing know-

one of the few chapters with a good guide to
learn more from this book than having attended
the meeting.

EDITORIAL BOARD

C L NEWMAN
Consultant paediatrician

NAWCH Quality Review—Setting Stan-
dards for Children in Health Care. Christine
Hogg. (Pp 80; £14.95 paperback.) NAWCH,

The National Association for the Welfare of
Children in Hospital (NAWCH) Charter for
Children in Hospital, published in 1985, pro-
vided us with a clear comprehensive statement
of children’s needs when in hospital care, whether in Manchester or Mulka Flugga.
Now comes son of NAWCH, or the NAWCH
Quality Review, which itself emerged from the
Quality Checklist for Caring for Children in
Hospital published in 1988.

Its stated aim is to provide a tool to look at
the ‘total environment’ for children in the
hospital as an outpatient, in operating
theatres and radiography departments, as well
as in the hospital wards where children are
looked after. All the staff at the hospital—
the encounter—porters, receptionists, nurses,
or doctors—are also included. By doing this,
a profile of the services provided in a district

is capable of drawing up and can act as the basis of a
dialogue between clinical staff and managers
about the service for which they are mutually
responsible.

The first part of the book outlines the rationale
behind current policies relating to the care of children. It then proceeds to give
detailed quality checklists under separate
headings in two main categories—policy and
planning and service provision for children.
Examples of the first are on district health
authority policy and planning and nursing
policy. In the second category are in-depth
checklists for outpatient clinics, diagnostic
and support services, and accident and
departmental services. To round off this
section there are two questionnaires for
patients.

Personal experience of using this document in
an average sized NHS district over the past
nine months has shown its usefulness in com-
piling a picture of the service drawn from the
responses of a wide range of staff. It clearly
showed areas of strength and weakness and
areas of confusion between different members
and groups of staff, and had a remarkable abil-
ity to clarify issues for dialogue with managers
of the service. It was readily accepted by the
district general manager and district health
authority as the basis for quality assessment
and its recognition and their taking up of ser-
vice contracts. Finally it was helpful as a tool
to discuss problems in common with members
of staff who deal with children as only a part
of their overall work, for example, anaesthetists,
outpatient nurses, and ear, nose, and throat
surgeons. It provides a basis for discussion
rather than a threatening confrontation over
issues that arise.

In the current climate of changes in the
NHS, this book provides an invaluable guide
to those working with children. Each chil-
dren’s department should purchase at least two copies so that it is readily available for
the use of both clinical staff and managers.
I am sure that the interest of the production of
a similar volume dealing with community child health.

RICHARD J PURVIS
Consultant paediatrician

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