and lay press, the advent of this book should act to restore a balance. It provides a comprehensive summary of areas of research, attempting to elucidate the aetiology of this syndrome, which remains one of the unsolved medical mysteries of our time. The effect of the loss on the family is also closely examined as the surviving victims of this syndrome.

The first of two parts in this publication deals with the medical aspects of SIDS and infantile apnoea. The reader is first reminded of the epidemiology of the syndrome and how proposed theories attempt to match its particular epidemiological characteristics. Pathological findings are then described in much detail, the pathologist having the unique opportunity to study true SIDS victims, whereas other researchers have to rely on certain identified high risk groups in which the exact relationship with SIDS remains unclear. It would appear, however, that the positive findings of one particular pathologist are seldom confirmed by another, making it difficult to assess the significance of these potentially relevant discoveries. The wealth of cardiorespiratory investigation in this field, with particular emphasis on the possible role of infant apnoea, is then discussed. The work presented is stimulating and convincing but with no mention of the large prospective studies that have failed to identify apnoea as a predictive factor in infants subsequently dying with a diagnosis of SIDS.

The second part of this work concentrates on the impact that SIDS has on the family and how in this particular circumstance the grieving reactions experienced may be affected. Such reactions are frequently observed and identifiable, but being described and outlined so clearly by the authors serve to concentrate the reader's thoughts on the particular needs of these families. Attention is also paid to the surviving siblings in the family, a much neglected group.

The impact of having an infant with apnoeic spells and the effect of introducing a home monitor is also explored and worthy of study by any paediatrician who supplies apnoea monitors for home use. The need for continuous medical input and support to these families is emphasised.

One cannot but be impressed with the contribution that the parents of SIDS victims themselves have made in the instigation and organisation of SIDS research. They have needed to stimulate a rather slow and accepting health profession into action and their efforts continue to fund much of the ongoing research.

The list of contributors to this publication is impressive, as is the extensive list of some 700 references. The balance between investigative detail and commentary is about right to make it a useful and readable text for paediatricians and other health care workers who are involved with families that have been victims of SIDS. As with any work concerning sudden infant death syndrome it still leaves the reader with more questions than answers.

N RUGGINS
Research fellow

Garrod's Inborn Factors in Disease. Edited by Charles R Scriver, Barton Childs. (Pp 248; £25 hardback.) Oxford University Press, 1989. ISBN 0-19-261574-2.

All clinicians and scientists working in the field of inherited metabolic disease will be

familiar with the name of Sir Archibald Garrod. His Croonian lectures delivered at the Royal College of Physicians, London, in 1908 and which were followed by publication of his most famous work, *Inborn Errors of Metabolism*, introduced the concept of chemical individuality. What is not so widely known, but elegantly described in this text, is Garrod's continuing contribution to medical science and in particular further development of his ideas on chemical individuality and diathesis, by which he meant an individual's genetic predisposition to disease.

Scriver and Childs have produced a delightful volume which will be of interest to a wide range of readers, not only those active in the genetic or metabolic fields. Using Garrod's lesser known text, *Inborn Factors in Disease* (largely ignored when first published in 1931, but reproduced here in full) they show Garrod to be a man of great vision with ideas that have application in these days of 'new' genetics.

The authors set the scene by describing the work of Garrod alongside that of his contemporaries. This is followed by a reproduction of the original text, *Inborn Factors in Disease*, with the addition of pertinent footnotes. To conclude the authors develop the ideas within the treatise to encompass more recent advances in genetics and molecular biology.

The end result is a stimulating book that can be read from cover to cover in only a couple of sittings. The ideas that the book generates take much longer to ponder over. There should be a place for this book in any medical library.

J E WRAITH
Senior registrar

Virological Infections. By Donald M McLean. (Pp 644; \$105.50 hardback.) Charles C Thomas, 1989. ISBN 0-398-05501-7.

To write a virology book at a time when new viruses are being discovered with amazing regularity provides considerable difficulties to the author.

This large book attempts comprehensive coverage of the field of both viral and chlamydial infections. Unfortunately it does not provide enough information for the paediatrician who may have to deal with serious viral infection both in the newborn baby and older child. The book starts with a most interesting historical introduction of development of diagnostic techniques in virology and includes a description of recombinant technology. It then goes on to describe the classification of viruses and laboratory techniques in viral identification. There is a useful section on the pathogenesis of virus infections followed by a chapter on vaccines and antiviral substances. I would have liked a rather fuller section on the immunological response to viral infection.

There then follows a description of the different viruses and the infections that they cause and the last part of the book is divided into sections on central nervous system, virus infections, respiratory virus infections, exanthemata, generalised febrile illnesses, and gastroenteritis.

There is no doubt that this book is comprehensive and there were no viruses omitted from the text. The neonatologist looking for details of management of herpes simplex infection during pregnancy and after delivery would be disappointed by the sparseness of detail. Although the author has gone into the literature in considerable detail, some of what

is quoted is no longer believed. Thus the statement that congenital varicella syndrome develops in 9% of infants born to mothers who became infected during the first trimester is no longer considered to be true. If this sort of information were transmitted by a virologist to his obstetrician or paediatrician then potentially misleading advice may be given to the mother resulting in an unnecessary termination for instance. When it comes to discussion of the mother with varicella at the time of delivery there is no information given as to the use of zoster immune globulin in the newborn baby to protect from potentially fatal disease.

I was disappointed that there was no information on the use of interferon analysis on the diagnosis of viral infections such as encephalitis and perhaps there is too little advice in the book as to how certain diseases should be investigated by the clinician.

I do not feel that this is a book that should be on the book shelf of the paediatrician or even that of the virologist who may be advising the paediatrician on what action to take once a diagnosis of viral infection has been made.

P T RUDD
Consultant paediatrician

Catalog of Prenatally Diagnosed Conditions. By David D Weaver. (Pp 251; £29 hardback.) The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989. ISBN 0-8081-3771-5.

This book is a testimony to the maxim 'good things come in small packages'. To anyone working in the various fields of prenatal diagnosis, the difficulty in extracting from the literature whether or not a particular condition has been diagnosed in pregnancy is well known. Professor Weaver has provided an excellent reference work to such disorders.

The main text is surprisingly short (151 pages) but this is a tribute to its conciseness. It consists of a logical layout of chapters including chromosomal abnormalities, congenital malformations and related disorders, dermatological disorders, fetal infections, haematological disorders, inborn errors of metabolism, others, and tumours and cysts. 'Others' is a mixed bag, ranging from headings such as 'fetal distress' to mendelian disorders, such as cystic fibrosis and Duchenne muscular dystrophy. This section may need further rationalisation as the book expands, as it surely will.

Within each chapter, the various disorders are listed both numerically according to a PD (prenatal diagnosis) number and also alphabetically, which will allow for logical expansion. The inclusion of the various alternative names and the McKusick catalogue number (when one is available) are useful.

For each condition, one or more methods used to diagnose the disorder are given, together with aspects of the condition which they detect (for example, absence of fetal movements in arthrogryposis on ultrasonography), with references. Other useful comments are added, including the preferred method of diagnosis, when known. Various superscripts define, for example, when in the pregnancy the findings were noted. Careful attention to the introductory statements on the use of the book and the meaning of the superscripts are vital to obtaining the maximum benefit from the book. The index provides some useful differential diagnoses, for example, of oligohydramnios.

The only obvious drawback of the book is