throughout. The bibliography is extensive, although there are disappointingly few recent references. There are excellent sections on discitis and other spinal infections, the management of the neurogenic bladder, and there is a very clear perspective on the rare childhood syringomyelia. The book's wider appeal is confirmed by a useful chapter on non-surgical diseases of the spinal cord presenting as surgical problems.

This type of publication is an alternative to the increasingly heavy, increasingly expensive, large multiauthor reference book. Its main advantage is its convenient size and kinder price, and of course the format allows the reader to select only those volumes in which he is truly interested. The whole series should be available in the library for reference, but it is likely that those practitioners regularly involved in the management of children with spinal cord disease will wish to have their own copy of the current issue.

G F COLE
Consultant paediatric neurologist

Cystic Fibrosis: A Guide for Patient and Family. By David M Orenstein. (Pp 225; $22·50 paperback). Raven Press, 1989. ISBN 0–88167–486–9.

This book does not cross the Atlantic well. I found myself irritated by the unfamiliar abbreviations which pepper the text (for example—PD means postural drainage, CPT means chest physical therapy) and the American slang 'gotten' and 'shot', but these must be very familiar to the American patient.

It is stated that the book is written for cystic fibrosis patients and their families especially in the first few months after diagnosis. It is certainly comprehensive, it explains much of the medical terminology, and gives detailed explanations of both the pathophysiology in cystic fibrosis and all the complications of the disease. I think the parents of my newly diagnosed children would be appalled to read it. Approximately one third of the book is devoted to aspects of daily life and psychology. This is unbalanced with an extraordinary chapter on exercise taking up 14 pages, 'daily life' being allocated six, and 'cystic fibrosis in adulthood' only four. I had small quibbles in each chapter but the chapters on 'the gastrointestinal system' and 'family life' were probably the best.

The major trans-Atlantic differences are in treatment. The approach, the drugs used, and the medical system for delivering care all differ and this makes the book unsuitable for a British lay readership. It is clearly a financial nightmare to have a child with cystic fibrosis in the USA and young adults are advised to look at company health insurance plans before applying for a job. Long live the NHS.

A H THOMSON
Consultant paediatrician

Manual of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology. Edited by Philip Lanzkowsky. (Pp 456; £26·50 paperback. Churchill Livingstone, 1989. ISBN 0–443–08607–9.

The opening sentence of the preface cautioned me about this book. Claiming to represent 'the synthesis of personal experience of three decades of active clinical and research endeavors', I hoped I would find a balanced critique of the field from an experienced clinician but a quick ruffle through the pages left me uninspired. An impression of text interrupted by endless lists and tables, the format reminded me of the books I clutched when revising for membership. The author, aided by three other contributors, ambitiously aims to provide a concise, practical, readable, and up to date book about paediatric haematology and oncology, of value for the medical student and the practising specialist alike. It is not surprising that he fails to achieve this.

The book is divided almost equally between haematology and oncology with a chapter on leukaemia providing the interface. The chapter headings are predictable and I applaud the attempt to emphasise clinical presentation. A short chapter on lymphadenopathy and splenomegaly provides some good clinical advice in a form difficult to find in other texts but was flawed, as elsewhere in the book, by too many lists and tables. There was, too, an unnecessarily complex discussion of the 'visceroptosed' spleen masquerading as true splenomegaly (what have I been missing all these years?).

The preface apologises, quite reasonably, for a dogmatic approach but suggests that the contents would offer a consensus view. I was surprised, however, at the relative balance given to different topics and there were important omissions. The section on haemoglobinopathies was placed deep in the chapter on haemolytic anaemia, attracting little prominence for these important diseases and it is wrong that any discourse on sickle cell disease omits at least a mention of both antibiotic prophylaxis and pneumovax. Haemophilia is dismissed in four pages and there is no reference in the whole book to AIDS, particularly extraordinary as the authors all come from New York.

This imbalance is manifest in the oncology sections too. Retinoblastoma has as many pages as neuroblastoma, and germ cell tumours more than brain tumours. There is no epidemiological overview and almost nothing on late sequelae of treatment, yet there are pages of chemotherapy details that will all too soon be out of date. Greater attention to the general principles of treatment would have been welcome and my gladness at seeing a chapter on supportive care evaporated when I found metabolic problems and tumour lysis dispatched in half a page and some unnecessarily complicated advice about transfusion support. Psychological issues are dealt with in three lines, suggesting merely that the reader should look elsewhere. As this was the last section of the last chapter in the book I found this a sadly fitting epitaph.

There is much information to be found between these covers but I disliked the presentation and perspective. There are several excellent and more substantial texts available for detailed reading in these subjects and many of the larger general paediatric texts provide a better balanced overview for the medical student or senior house officer.

M STEVENS
Consultant paediatric oncologist

Smith's Recognizable Patterns of Human Deformation. Revised by John M Graham. (Pp 183; £23·50 hardback.) W B Saunders Company (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich), 1988. ISBN 0–72166–2338–7.

This slim and perhaps unique book, a minor spark from D W Smith's magic wand, has now been revised and plumped up by his one time fellow and colleague, John Graham. This second (1988) edition comes some seven years after the first. The text is virtually untouched apart from the introduction, a new short section on 'fetal akinesia sequence', some reorganisation of others and the addition of a few references. All the original drawings, diagrams, and tables remain. The same photographs and radiographs are also to be found but these have been added to and in some places with effect. The resultant change is, therefore, one of polish rather than refurbishment so that those with the first edition will want to look at this new edition keenly before rushing out to buy it. However, those paediatric—especially neonatal—orthopaedic and even obstetric units who do not already have one copy should not hesitate to add it to their shelves and give it equal prominence with those texts that deal with the modern technology.

The message is that deformities of all kinds affecting limbs, trunk, face, skull, ears, and nose may follow if abnormal external pressure either local or general persists during fetal life—whether due to faulty uterine anatomy or pathology, lack of amniotic fluid, or persistent malpositioning. The corollary is that some of these deformities, especially those of late onset, correct themselves to some extent once the constraints disappear but others need to be actively treated—often by the gentle use of counter pressure if asymmetry is not to persist. Club foot, toe deformity, joint dislocation, neurospraxia, scoliosis, mis-shapen noses, ears, and mandibles, and torticollis are all included. There are also sections on craniostenosis, skull moulding, craniotabes, and the special problems created by breech, transverse, face, and brow presentation. The effect of the congenitally abnormal uterus, oligohydramnios, fetal akinesia, extrauterine implantation, and early uterine constraint on body development are reviewed carefully. Lastly the third part covers a clinical approach to deformation and the mechanics of morphogenesis.

This book is not for dipping in nor does it have the Thesaurus quality of the parent volume '*Recognizable Patterns of Human Malformation*'. It is, however, a minor classic on an often neglected subject and deserves to be read by all those who claim to look after babies and their deformities.

J INSLEY
Consultant paediatrician and consultant clinical geneticist

Skeletal Injury in the Child. By John A Ogden. (Pp 930; £115 hardback.) W B Saunders Company (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich), 1990. ISBN 0–7216–2955–5.

It is not often that one is asked to review a book that is so clearly going to become a standard work. Dr John Ogden has undertaken a monumental task and produced a 900 page treatise entirely by himself. This is a feat of endurance and indicates his grasp of this field. Comprehensive cover of the subject starts with general principles and the anatomy of skeletal development. The author has a particular interest in growth mechanisms and chondro-osseous repair which are beautifully illustrated. There is a section on fractures and paediatric diseases and the topic of non-accidental injury is given appropriate cover. The bulk of the book is devoted to a regional analysis of the various injuries that may occur.

Arch Dis Child: first published as 10.1136/adc.65.5.563 on 1 May 1990. Downloaded from http://adc.bmj.com/ on May 11, 2021 by guest. Protected by copyright.