factors, incidence, mortality, and diagnosis are followed by a series of brief but extremely well referenced chapters on individual tumour types and tumours of specific tissues or organs, for examples, neuroblastoma, germ cell tumours, and renal tumours. The book is intended mainly for pathologists and handles the problems of classification and macroscopic and histological diagnosis in considerably more detail than those of treatment. For the latter purpose the reader is often referred to other works on paediatric oncology.

The work is very readable and in general up to date, providing an excellent review of the subject. An occasional failing is recognisable. Thus while quoting reports of the occurrence of primitive neuroectodermal tumours in macerated fetuses the author omits to mention more recent evidence that such 'tumours' are usually artefactual. A major criticism is the small size and poor quality of most of the illustrations, some of them being uninterpretable and detracting from, rather than enhancing, the value of the text. A linked problem is the use of a different and, for this aging reviewer, less legible typeface for the legends than for the text. Despite these visual drawbacks the book can be thoroughly recommended as a useful work of reference to pathologists concerned with the diagnosis of paediatric tumours and also merits consultation by paediatricians and paediatric surgeons.

J S WIGGLESWORTH
Professor of perinatal pathology

Living with Haemophilia. 3rd Ed. By Peter Jones. (Pp 256; £19 hardback.) Castle House Publications Ltd, 1990. ISBN 0-7194-0152-6.

The best thing the old General Nursing Council did was to put a question in the final nursing examinations about haemophilia. Since then, nurses regularly attend the Haemophilia Centre for training in hospital and home care, and the whole hospital seems more aware of the disease and its problems. Dr Jones' book is written for the haemophiliac and his family, and describes all they need to know and more about the haemophilias. It should similarly raise awareness about the disease for the layman. This is the third edition. It is comprehensive and comprehensible. The details are written in terms which all can understand and the diagrams are clear and simple. The popularity of earlier editions can be judged by the fact they have been published in six other languages. Over the years I have forgotten how many copies my department has bought to lend to patients, but they are numerous. Once they go, they rarely come back.

How does this differ from earlier editions? The book is now printed with more words to the page so is more informative but only slightly larger. A new first chapter reassures the parents of a newly diagnosed child. The statement that 'he has as much chance of being captain of one of his country's sports teams as his father' may be taken two ways. Other new chapters include information on side effects of treatment such as liver disease and infection, HIV and AIDS, and on haemophilia care in developing countries, and vaccination schedules including hepatitis B. There are many new diagrams and increased information about contraception, factors VIII and IX, von Willebrand's disease, hepatitis, and antenatal diagnosis. Another innovation is the inclusion of photographs of haemophilic boys enjoying a range of physical activities, despite some

obviously bad knees and legs. These are all improvements.

My own experience tells me that the earlier editions served their purpose well, and I have no doubt that this edition will do the same. Its message, as the author states, is 'life first, haemophilia second'. However, in his attempt to reduce the anxieties of parents newly faced with a diagnosis of haemophilia, the author plays down the severity of the disease. For many patients, even with first class management, the disease presents major problems for their enjoyment of life, their ability to work and play, and their prospects. Even so, all families of a child with haemophilia should read and study it. If they do, they will know more about the disease than their paediatricians. This reversal of roles is bad for medical morale, so I can only advise that paediatricians should read it too, and make it compulsory reading for nurses, physiotherapists, teachers, and others who may deal with haemophilic children.

D I K EVANS
Consultant haematologist

Manual of Infections and Immunizations in Children. Edited by Peter Rudd and Angus Nicoll. (Pp 291; £12 paperback.) Oxford Medical Publications, 1991. ISBN 0-19-262118-1.

Inoculation against smallpox appears to have been first used in the 6th century BC by the Chinese, who implanted bamboo splinters dipped in pustular material into the nasal mucosa of uninfected individuals. The protective effect of cowpox against natural smallpox infection was folk wisdom for many generations before Jenner. Over the last hundred years immunisation has been an even larger contributor to the health of individuals and nations. With the development of gene manipulation by molecular biology, and the ability to produce purified antibody by in vitro techniques, its day is only just dawning.

This book then appears at a watershed in the development of immunisation, and provides a bridge linking scientific and academic knowledge on the one hand, with everyday clinical practice on the other. It has been rapidly and professionally put together by the British Paediatric Association Standing Committee on Immunisation and Vaccination.

The book is directed towards all concerned in paediatric primary care, junior hospital staff, paramedical staff, and parents, and is divided into sections. The first of these discusses the general diagnosis and management of common infections in childhood from a problem orientated viewpoint, for example, the child with a rash and the child with vomiting and diarrhoea. The second section provides short summaries of specific childhood infections, with particular detail of recently recognised conditions such as AIDS and Kawasaki disease.

This is followed by a short section on the collection of specimens for laboratory diagnosis and a long and comprehensive section on immunisation, including a very helpful discussion on practical problems: should you immunise a child with diarrhoea or a chest cough when they come to clinic? What about the baby who is said to have had whooping cough or measles? What is the relevance of a history of fits or febrile convulsions?

The book concludes with detailed advice on travelling abroad with a child, a series of

useful appendices, and a bibliography for further reading.

This second edition has been expanded and brought up to date and is beautifully laid out, simple, straightforward, and authoritative. Demanding a place in every GP's surgery, accident and emergency unit, and in every general paediatric ward in the country, it is a model of clarity and accuracy. I only wish all medical texts were half as good as this.

MICHAEL TARLOW
Senior lecturer in paediatrics

Paediatric Speciality Practice for the 1990s. Edited by Janet Eyre and Robert Boyd. (Pp 275; £20 softback.) Royal College of Physicians, 1991. ISBN 1-873240-19-8. Available from the Royal College of Physicians of London, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE.

My personal paediatric library is kept up to date by the editors of the *Archives* supplying me with excellent books, ostensibly for review. I'm beginning to wonder though, is this just kindness or a subtle hint? Have the editors heard something that I haven't?

This latest splendid edition to my bookshelf is based on the most recent paediatric conference held at the Royal College of Physicians. A number of distinguished subspecialists review changes in practice over the last five years, and speculate on how these will influence paediatrics in the next decade.

The book begins with community paediatrics, stressing prevention of illness and promotion of good health. The importance of information systems, review of surveillance, and integration of services are discussed. Full implementation of best current practice is seen as the goal over the next few years.

Most subspecialties (neonatology is deliberately excluded) are represented with the sad exceptions of accident and emergency, the largest, and intensive care, the most expensive. The chapters include up to date opinion on aetiology, investigations, and treatment. For example there is a thought provoking review on the aetiology on cerebral palsy, and in addition the author stresses the present and probable future role of surgery and highlights the tremendous importance of counselling performed by physiotherapists, largely untrained for psychotherapeutic work. The chapter on epilepsy illustrates the circle fully turned with the use of magnetic resonance imaging to detect small focal lesions in the temporal lobe with subsequent surgical removal. A useful resumé of risk versus benefit of drug treatment follows.

Opinions are revised on what were sometimes overkill investigations. Thus under 'imaging of the urinary tract', cystography is not even mentioned, and the ESPGAN criteria of three jejunal biopsies for the diagnosis of coeliac disease is being abandoned.

The philosophy of changes in treatment is epitomised by the chapter on paediatric oncology headed 'towards cure at least cost'. For many malignancies current research is aimed at identifying poor prognostic groups for more intensive treatment while reducing treatment for cases with a good outlook.

Current new treatments, such as pancreatic transplant, and somatic gene therapy are discussed with their attendant difficulties, which surely will be overcome in the next 10 years. The book concludes with a thoughtful

chapter on the role of general practice in child care.

I have mentioned just a few of the enormous number of ideas in this book. It is well presented and contains references up to 1990. As today's subspeciality work becomes part of tomorrow's general paediatrics all those involved in child care will find it very useful. The editors and authors are to be congratulated and so is the Royal College of Physicians.

M MONCRIEFF
Consultant paediatrician

Pediatric Decision Making. 2nd Ed. by Stephen Berman. (Pp 480; £39.50 hardback.) B C Decker Inc, 1991. ISBN 1-55664-141-9.

Although not the sort of book that you can leaf through idly in free moments between bathing the baby and writing your MD, it is a very comprehensive approach to paediatric management. Written as a series of flow diagrams, it gives clear and sensible guidelines on common paediatric problems. It is divided into 14 sections according to systems and includes a section on behavioural and developmental disorders. Each section is further subdivided into chapters based either on presenting symptoms or on a presumed diagnosis. Important points to be covered in the history and examination are outlined, investigations are suggested according to the severity of the illness, and flow diagrams guide the reader through a logical sequence of management decisions, including follow up. All suggested drugs are listed at the ends of chapters together with dosages and availability. For simplification, diagrams are annotated separately on facing pages.

As it is an American book there are, of course, differences in names of drugs and recommended treatments. For example, subcutaneous adrenaline is still a commonly used first line bronchodilator in America where it is prescribed as subcutaneous epinephrine. In addition there are differences in our antibiotic prescribing policies and anyone using this book should be aware of their local policy, particularly when prescribing first line antibiotics for undiagnosed septicaemia or meningitis.

Every registrar should keep this useful book on hand for reference should they wish to appear intelligent to their senior house officers, especially from the end of the phone in the middle of the night. However, it is not pocket sized, and at nearly £40 it is probably a book

to keep under lock and key on the children's ward.

SUSAN LAURENT
Senior registrar

Child Health Matters. Edited by Sally Wyke and Jenny Hewison. (Pp 156; paperback.) Open University Press, 1991. ISBN 0-335-09393-0.

When I went for one of my first interviews for a paediatric job I was asked by one of the interviewers whether it would make any difference to my clinical practice if I were a parent. At the time I said it would (thinking that must be the right thing to say), now I am convinced. It has changed my practice because I have had to look at child health from a different perspective. In many ways this book succeeds in doing the same thing in that it enlightens the reader about a parent's eye view of services and child health in general.

It is a modern, politically up to date book that provides a mixture of social, psychological, medical, and environmental emphases. The contributors come from a wide variety of backgrounds and there is a useful summary of each chapter in the book at the beginning that acts as a useful way of orientating the reader.

Jenny Popay's chapter on 'women, child care and money' raises many issues including health professionals' need to stress the importance of what women living in poverty can do and *not* what they cannot, the concept of relative poverty related to lack of control of financial assets within a family, the role of the extended family in supporting mothers on low income, the need for jobs, access to money and good quality child care, and the need for health care provision for mothers themselves. The same chapter emphasises how a mother's and health professional's concepts of normality often differ and the methodological difficulties of getting mothers to talk about 'minor' problems. There is a constant need to be *seen* to be dealing appropriately and mothers feel very anxious about health professionals' attitudes to them. The importance of reassurance in general is stressed again later in the book in Clark and Hewison's chapter on 'whether or not to consult a GP', and half the sample of parents who were questioned stated that reassurance was the single most important thing that they received from their doctors. This certainly re-enforces my own belief that reassurance must be built in as a valid outcome measure for health services offered to children.

'Social and cultural assumptions have serious consequences when they serve as measures of "normality" in the area of child development'. In the chapter on 'understanding the needs of ethnic minorities' this idea is well explored using the concept of the childhood/adulthood continuum and the differential emphasis placed on the tools (toys) in contrast to the context of play to illustrate different perspectives. We are told about how certain health education exercises have shown an insensitivity to parents needs and knowledge, including the Surma story and misguided health advice given to women wishing to fast during Ramadan. It is obvious there are many conflicting religious, family, and health demands made on women in these groups.

Throughout the book one gets the impression that sociological research methodology may be less rigorous in its nature, but one certainly gets more of the 'feely' stuff that is so important for the new NHS, and yet does not appear to have been so readily accepted by the scientific community as yet. Contrasts between health professionals and parents are brought out in the other chapters on ideologies of child care and an interesting chapter on the use of services by parents of children with cough. This certainly dispels the myth of unnecessary service usage by using the interesting technique of scenario presentation and producing a severity threshold. Later chapters provide extremely useful reviews on breast feeding and asthma. The latter places emphasis on nurse run clinics, the need for adequate time to educate children and adults in the treatment techniques required, and the usefulness of district based asthma working groups. Jenny Kitssinger's chapter on 'child sexual abuse and the trials of motherhood' re-enforces the often neglected perspective of the mother and her own needs after the disclosure. Jacqueline Mok's chapter on 'HIV' gives up to date practical guidelines for monitoring and treatment of HIV infection in children and the concept of the 'family clinic' set up in Edinburgh, which provides a well functioning community, social services, education, and health interface.

Overall, this is an excellent pot-pourri of material that borrows data from many disciplines involved in child health, including sociology, psychology, medicine, and social anthropology. Child health cannot be seen as the province of one discipline only and this book certainly demonstrates how different disciplines can work together to give a fuller picture and, hopefully, influence a group of more empathic doctors.

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