paediatricians the greatest value must surely be the discussion about controversial topics. The current treatments for bacterial meningitis are debated and referenced, the management of pyloric stenosis in the UK is provocatively criticised but not referenced, and the need to develop research techniques to discover the harm of recurrent otitis media is considered.

Many abstracts reflect practice and cultural issues in the United States. Tennis elbow in breast feeding mothers due to overzealous use of the breast pump, the perceived attractiveness of preterm infants with cranial moulding, the value of aerobic exercise in delinquent adolescents, may all strike readers in other countries as peculiarly American issues.

The commentaries are filled with observations and commonsense advice which reflect broad experience and extensive knowledge. Both editors write as they think. Time which might have been spent on improving the syntax is devoted to amplifying each abstract with further references on the topic. The anecdotes and schoolboy humour are both refreshing and informative. I was interested to learn, for example, that Dr Wizwell has become a successful urologist, and to discover the odd man out among herpes, AIDS, a condominium in Buffalo, and gonorrhoea (the last because it is the only one you can get rid of!).

It has been a pleasure to review and to recommend the yearbook.

S MCKENZIE
Consultant paediatrician

Bone Marrow Transplantation in Children. Edited by F Leonard Johnson and C Pochedly. (Pp 551; \$150 hardback.) Raven Press, 1990. ISBN 0-88167-575-X.

This is a well presented and conveniently sized book intended for 'paediatricians with interests in immunology, haematology, and oncology'. The style is clear and readable, with informative tables and illustrations, and quality printing and paper. In 28 chapters and 500 pages, the scope and contemporary practices of paediatric bone marrow transplantation are reviewed by numerous contributors, all from transplant centres in the United States. There is a thorough explanation of the underlying theory and principle of transplantation, guidelines on supportive care, and, of particular importance in paediatric practice, discussion of long term effects on growth and development. Nine chapters review the world experience of bone marrow transplantation for specific diseases, and in each case there are comments on individual preference and practice within the contributors' own unit. Although this approach leads to some repetition, this is not unduly tiresome. On occasion, recommended practice is contentious, but the reader is encouraged in the introduction to be critical in drawing conclusions.

I have two criticisms of this book. Firstly, as may be the case with any text, the literature of this subject has expanded rapidly resulting in gaps in some of the reviews. Secondly, there is little new information here for the experienced subspecialist. However, this is an informative and well referenced text which will be of considerable interest to all junior staff working in paediatric bone marrow transplantation and so is recommended for the departmental library.

DAVID WEBB
Lecturer in haematology

Paediatric Endocrinology. 2nd Ed. Edited by Fima Lifshitz. (Pp 1104; \$234 hardback.) Marcel Dekker, 1990. ISBN 0-8247-8159-7.

This 2nd edition of *Paediatric Endocrinology* in the 'clinical paediatrics' series acknowledges the many recent advances in this field that have necessitated an updated, greatly expanded new version. In the foreword the reader is reminded that 35 years ago paediatric endocrinology in the USA was practiced by only 15 paediatric endocrinologists from two training centres as opposed to over 500 certified paediatric endocrinologists from multiple training centres at present. In addition, the broad base of endocrinology is noted with skills in genetics, nutrition, gynaecology, and auxology being needed in addition to those in paediatric endocrine disease.

The book is divided into six parts dealing with aspects of childhood endocrine disease covering growth and growth disorders, adrenal and sexual development, thyroid disorders, problems related to calcium and phosphorus, diabetes mellitus and hypoglycaemia, and other endocrine disorders. The latter section contains seven chapters covering areas such as autoimmune endocrinopathies, neuroendocrine disorders, childhood obesity, and low renin hypertension in childhood.

There is a chapter on tolerance testing in children which provides extensive details of various endocrine procedures. Several of the protocols noted are for tests that are not used frequently and should provide a useful reference source. The final chapter on reference charts is also extensive but many of them are based on American standards. However, there are useful reference charts for penile length, nipple size in various stages of puberty, and a useful selection of disease specific charts for conditions such as Down's syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, achondroplasia, and other skeletal dysplasias.

Having used this book as my main paediatric endocrine reference source for several weeks, I am impressed by the breadth of the information provided on several common areas. This is well illustrated by the section on growth and growth disorders. The initial chapter on short stature gives a comprehensive review that would be valuable to the non-specialist paediatrician and indicates the need for subsequent investigations. This contrasts with three chapters in this section on hereditary growth hormone deficiency, disorders of growth hormone, neurosecretion, and growth hormone treatment, which are very thorough reviews of topics of great interest to the specialist paediatrician in growth disorders.

The remaining chapters in this section covering areas such as psychosocial short stature, intrauterine growth retardation, failure to thrive, and excessive growth syndromes would be of interest to both specialist and non-specialist practitioners. The chapter on the psychological issues of short stature covers a subject that is rarely addressed in paediatric endocrine textbooks and provides a comprehensive review of the topic. It is also a reminder that the scientific appraisal and treatment of short stature has perhaps outstripped and overshadowed the immense psychological problems that can occur with restricted height.

The main sections of the book cover their subjects in both a wide ranging and detailed manner making it difficult to comment on these in a short review. The calcium and phosphorus section, however, is very worthy of special mention with an excellent review on

calcium/phosphate homeostasis followed by a detailed account of calcium and phosphorus problems in the neonate. It also covers parathyroid disorders in children and there is an excellent section on metabolic bone disease in children which is an area that one is often seeking an up to date reference source. There are 150 pages approximately devoted to diabetes mellitus in the child and these pages cover the subject extensively with the main chapters on management being from the Pittsburgh team led by Dr Allan Drash, with full discussions on complications, nutrition, treatment of diabetic ketoacidosis, diabetes education, together with the psychosocial aspects of this condition.

This book can be recommended for specialist practitioners in paediatric endocrinology as it provides a modern and wide ranging review of the speciality with extensive references. The introductory and physiological chapters in each section should appeal to the general paediatrician who might feel rather intimidated by the more specialised chapters in each section. There are few large textbooks of paediatric endocrinology but this one could be highly recommended, although its price will probably make it more likely to be found in the paediatric library rather than on the practitioners own book shelf.

C S SMITH
Senior lecturer in child health

Pediatric Otolaryngology. Vols 1 and 2, 2nd Edition. Edited by Charles D Bluestone, Sylvan E Stool, Mary D Scheetz. (Pp 1458; £180.00 each volume hardback.) W M Saunders Company (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich) 1990. ISBN (set) 0-7216-2120-1.

This is a second edition of a magnum opus on ear, nose, and throat diseases and allied subjects in children. It is a fairly massive two volume, seven section, 1458 page work, almost entirely from North America. Of the 119 contributors only six are Canadian and one is Japanese. The remainder represent individuals with a wealth of otolaryngological and paediatric experience from almost every centre of excellence in the United States. Interestingly, it is said to be aimed at all levels of medical staff from students, through house staff, paediatricians, and otolaryngologists, and there is certainly something for everyone in this edition. There is a bias in relation to otological disease, said by the authors to represent the most commonly occurring conditions treated by those who care for children. In many ways the otological emphasis also reflects the long term and wide ranging interest in ear diseases in children, originating in the Pittsburgh department where the authors are based. Few centres have contributed so much to the literature in relation to children's ear disease as have Professors Bluestone and Paradise. There are new and interesting chapters on the very topical subjects of sleep apnoea and snoring and also on subglottic stenosis and perilymphatic fistulae.

Generally speaking, each chapter is very well referenced and there are special selected references relating to key papers which are annotated. This provides the reader with a means to explore more fully the surgical management of conditions that are discussed in the text but which are not described in detail and are felt to lie outside the scope of the book. Most of the text is supported by clear, distinct

tive, and helpful line diagrams and the medical artist deserves acknowledgment for this.

The text is arranged in a problem orientated way and combined with an authoritative and comprehensive review of each subject. There are 100 page sections on craniofacial growth and on the neck and communication disorders. There are sections of 200 pages each on the nose and sinuses; on the face, orbit, mouth, pharynx and oesophagus; and finally on the larynx, trachea, bronchus, and oesophagus. More than 500 pages are devoted to ear and related structures. Within this section is a very comprehensive review of congenital anomalies of the ear.

There is absolutely no doubt that every ear, nose, and throat department must have this edition within their medical library. It is an essential reference book and, as claimed by the authors, it will provide points of interest and a means of stimulating the reader towards appropriate references for all aspects of ear, nose, and throat disease in childhood. Despite my enthusiasm for this book I was left wondering why not a single contributor was gleaned from the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Australasia, or other centres where undoubtedly important contributions could have been found.

A RICHARD MAW
*Consultant ear, nose, and
throat surgeon*

Graft-vs-Host Disease—Immunology, Pathophysiology and Treatment. Edited by SJ Burakoff, HJ Deeg, J Ferrara, K Atkinson. (Pp 816; \$210 hardback.) Marcel Dekker, 1990. ISBN 0-8247-8188-0.

This book is destined to be a standard reference on the topic of graft versus host disease (GVHD) for the 1990s. The editors have drawn together from America, Europe, and Australia many of the foremost experts on GVHD to produce an attractive, well indexed, up to date book. At \$210 it is expensive but good value for those working in bone marrow

transplant units. As the number of paediatric disorders amenable to treatment with bone marrow transplant slowly increases, many paediatricians have become familiar with the chronic GVHD which sometimes ensues. For most paediatric department libraries this book would be an extravagance, but it would be worth a trip to the main library to consult if a question on the detailed management of GVHD arose.

The book is divided into two sections, each preceded by an introduction of eight pages which succinctly reviews the contents of each chapter. The first section of 300 pages, divided into 15 chapters, comprehensively reviews the animal experimental models which have perhaps proved more relevant to clinical transplantation than any other area of human disease. The next 400 pages deal with clinical aspects of GVHD in 24 chapters, providing a mine of information.

Is there nothing wrong with this book? Perhaps a lack of perspective, both in terms of the lack of an overview—the brief foreword by this year's Nobel laureate for medicine might have been expanded to do this—and also from a paediatric viewpoint. The incidence and severity of GVHD is inversely correlated with age but its treatment with immunosuppressants has particular implications for children, especially in terms of growth. These aspects are well covered in separate chapters but a chapter bringing these and other aspects of GVHD related to childhood would have complemented this book nicely.

GARETH MORGAN
Senior lecturer and consultant immunologist

Problem-oriented Pediatric Diagnosis. RM Barkin. (Pp 200; £9.95 paperback.) Churchill Livingstone, 1990. ISBN 0-316-08104-3.

I approached this book with mixed feelings. Is there a place for yet another pocket handbook

of paediatrics? On the other hand, the title suggested that this book might occupy an unfilled niche in paediatric libraries.

The book is mainly grouped into problems according to systems, but there are also sections on the approach to the healthy child, general problems, and behavioural problems. The book seems to be aimed much more towards acute problems rather than chronic outpatient disorders. Thus abdominal pain is considered largely under surgical diagnoses with little mention of chronic abdominal pain. Furthermore, in this, as in most of the sections there is no indication of the relative importance of conditions in a differential diagnosis.

There were a number of minor irritations in this book. Some of the diagrams, such as the one on the evaluation of anaemia, would be well beyond the visual acuity of anybody with incipient presbyopia. I also found some of the American terms rather obtrusive, for example, stooling for defaecation.

Some of the recommended investigations reveal a definite difference in practice on the other side of the Atlantic, for example, recommending obtaining a catheter specimen of urine before suprapubic aspiration in infants with a suspected urinary tract infection. I was also surprised that electroencephalography was advised for all children presenting with seizures. Equally odd was the omission of the measurement of peak flow in the assessment of asthma. I doubt if many British paediatricians would advocate parents administering ipecacuanha unsupervised to their children at home, and yet this advice is given under the parental instruction guide.

Overall I found this an unhelpful book. There are many other pocket handbooks of paediatrics that I would recommend rather than this book. Despite the criticisms I gleaned at least one new fact from this book—that the black widow spider is a cause of abdominal pain, but, alas, the pathogenesis of this was not explained in the text!

ANDREW BOON
Consultant paediatrician