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