SISTER JOURNALS—SCANDINAVIA

Acta Paediatrica Scandinavica

Acta Paediatrica Scandinavica is a well established journal of high repute and recognition. It is now in its 80th volume. It is a monthly journal, but also produces supplements of considerable expertise, which are a useful adjunct to the journal's overall annual volume.

The journal contains a mixture of original articles, short communications, case reports of supposed interest and also an editorial comment where one paper per journal is subject to editorial review. This I find a very useful aspect of the journal as it often tackles papers which raise controversial points and discusses them in a dispassionate fashion. The book review in December 1990 was of little value considering the size of the book that was reviewed. Announcements and diaries in journals, I have never found useful.

I find the journal extremely useful. It seems to me to fill the gap between a journal such as *Archives of Disease in Childhood* and *Pediatric Research*, which is very much laboratory or bench based research. *Acta Paediatrica Scandinavica* seems to marry the two disciplines really rather well. I also find it rather more readable and understandable than *Pediatric Research* as the papers tend to be written very much more with the paediatric world in mind rather than the pure scientist. The neonatal population are a captive audience, akin to the laboratory rat, and in common with many other journals neonatology papers are over represented in the December issue compared with the relative importance of neonatology throughout all of paediatrics.

In my own area of interest, however, the papers on diabetes that happened to be published in the December issue exemplify well the combination of virtual laboratory research with regard to sodium and lithium transport and more clinically based research with the psychological report of personality and metabolic control. I feel the inclusion of short communications is an excellent idea. A short research

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project can be included within this area and allows rapid publication of research projects which are not enormous in their scope.

I remain consistently sceptical, however, about the use of case reports. In order to gain publication the case must be extraordinarily rare, and it seems to me that the only purpose of this is to expand the authors' lists of publications rather than lend useful and practical knowledge to the paediatric fraternity. This criticism, however, is not peculiar to *Acta Paediatrica Scandinavica*.

I enjoy reading the journal and would strongly recommend paediatric departments to take this journal which is relatively cheap compared with many of its European counterparts.

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