this is a fitting tribute to French paediatric gastroenterology, and worth considering when a little more depth is required than is normally available in the briefier texts.

I W BOOTH
Professor of paediatric gastroenterology and nutrition


The title of this volume is only loosely related to the four review articles it contains. The articles are: taste, the neural basis for body wisdom, the piglet as a model animal for the study of digestion and absorption in milk fed human infants, complement systems in nutritional deficiency, and nutritional rickets in the tropics. The longest article, over 70 pages, is that on the piglet and is a mine of information on development of its physiology, particularly in developing gut microflora in both piglets and human infants. The reader may be surprised that when so much is written on alternatives to animals in research, an entertaining and relatively expensive animal, such as the pig, is encouraged as a research tool. Piglets are simple stomached omnivores and thus have many similarities with human infants but have many differences too. As the article states, some of these differences may not yet be fully documented in the scientific literature and could lead the unsuspecting research worker astray.

The article on rickets in the tropics debates the controversy over whether rickets occur in malnourished children. Active rickets is not common in children with severe protein energy malnutrition but is a common accompaniment of mild malnutrition. In tropical climates rickets may occur as a result of sunlight deficiency in dark skinned races whose women and children traditionally avoid exposure to the sun, but calcium deficiency may be as important in the development of bone disease in children in the tropics as vitamin D deficiency. Moreover biochemical and radiological findings can be misleading. Alkaline phosphatase levels are often normal and phosphate levels may or may not be low. Rickets occurring in association with severe protein energy malnutrition presents as 'atrophic rickets' with widening of the zone of provisional calcification and gross demineralisation of the shaft of the bones as the only radiological signs. Calcium supplementation as well as vitamin D replacement is essential.

The 'triggers' of the title may best refer to the chapter on taste as the message of the author is that taste at the interface between discrimination and digestion. Taste drives feeding reflexes and activities that mediate reward, and withdrawal activities leading to avoidance of toxins. Thus 'the first approximation of body wisdom is inherited through taste'.

These articles are styled as reviews with research cited but details of specific projects are not described in great detail. The review of complement systems in nutritional deficiency, possibly because of paucity of data on the subject, resembles an original paper with the author's own work presented in detail.

It is difficult to know whom this book would appeal other than to those who have already made the commitment of buying the previous 66 volumes of World Review of Nutrition and Dietetics. Readers interested in one topic will find much of interest but are unlikely to want to pay the cost of the whole book. Only nutritional polymaths or bookworms could be expected to devour all chapters with equal enthusiasm.

E M E POSKITT
Senior lecturer in child health


This monograph forms part of a series tackling common paediatric problems and is designed to offer guidance for the investigation and management of the conditions described. This particular volume, edited by two psychiatrists, represents the collaborative work between paediatricians and paediatrician interesting to them.

The chapters are divided into feeding problems of infants and preschool children, followed by a later section predominantly on anorexia nervosa and bulimia in adolescents, which forms a good half of the volume. It is this section that is particularly relevant to paediatricians in training. The chapters are well written and provide a clear understanding of the conditions described. The presentation is clear and the text concise and readable.

The monograph is highly relevant to paediatricians in training and in practice. The monograph is highly relevant to paediatricians in training and in practice. The monograph is highly relevant to paediatricians in training and in practice. The monograph is highly relevant to paediatricians in training and in practice.