mend it to all those caring for sick children as an informative and practical text which should be bought for libraries and would also be a useful resource on the paediatric ward.

JOHN PUNTIS
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This short and eminently readable monograph from the prolific Professor Brook is a welcome update on his original book of 1978. There are nine concise 'state of the art' chapters with a tenth on practical matters. No references are given and there is only a small bibliography.

Inevitably in a book of this kind there are some omissions. The measurement of thyroid stimulating hormone receptor antibodies is not detailed in the laboratory section, while growth is not mentioned in the chapter on diabetes. Some eccentric views are expressed (for example, the academic benefits of hypothyroidism and the social woes of tall stature in adulthood!) and there are some irritations (much of the text on practical matters at the end could be usefully incorporated into the previous chapters). However, these drawbacks are more than outweighed by the author's clear prose, vast clinical experience, and sheer common sense. As one would expect, the chapters on growth, puberty, and the adrenal gland are excellent. The thyroid section has some radical and sound advice on the management of both hypothyroidism and thyrotoxicosis which will be of particular value to both general paediatricians and paediatric endocrinologists. The section on diabetes is a little disappointing with the author perhaps correctly suggesting a charge of therapeutic nihilism against himself, and scant coverage of some of the more innovative aspects of diabetic management.

This book should be read and enjoyed by all practising paediatricians, while junior doctors studying for the DCH and MRCP will enjoy the easy access to current paediatric endocrinology. In this age of multiauthor tomes this entertaining and digestible book reasserts the enduring value of the monograph.

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