and readable. It begins with theories as to the function of sleep and then outlines the range of disorders possible, before describing what is known on its anatomy and chronobiology. Chapters make good use of diagrams and tables, and are well referenced. The diagnosis and management of obstructive sleep apnoea predominates, but there are also valuable sections on more behavioural disorders and parasomnias. Attention is paid throughout to taking a full sleep history and the book concentrates on clinical management. There are also chapters on colic and sleep enuresis, and the book finishes with a good review of the use of pharmacological agents.

Each chapter in itself serves as an up to date review of an individual area. However, on a full reading of the book, there is significant overlap between chapters. There is also some disorganisation in the sequence and a few areas which have been given low priority. Common polysonomographic examples are presented late in the book and would have been better placed at the beginning. A section on recognising the EEG characteristics of different sleep stages would have been useful before referring to a more detailed sleep staging manual. Sleep disordered breathing in neuromuscular disorders gets little mention, and there is insufficient detail on the use of non-invasive ventilation.

Despite these criticisms it is a worthwhile book and is good value. It should be a basic text for paediatric respiratory trainees, and it would be useful for any professional with an interest in sleep problems in children. It is a welcome resource for a growing specialty.

T Hilliard

Manual of pediatric nutrition, 4th edition

Edited by Kirsty Hendricks, Christopher Duggan. Ontario: BC Decker, 2005, pp 850, US$49.95 (£30 (approx.); €40 (approx.)), paperback. ISBN 1 55009-3088

This manual is up-to-date with respect to the evidence base and practical advice. The book can be carried around or kept in the office for easy reference. It comes with a CD-Rom which gives computer lovers easy access to the relevant pages. The 36 chapters of the book are conveniently divided into three parts: nutrition for the well child; nutrition for the hospitalised child; and nutrition in specific disease states. The chapters cover diverse areas of nutrition. Methods of nutritional assessment and management are described in depth, with internal consistency between chapters. The author’s approach will appeal to a wide readership, and the user-friendly style makes the manual suitable for a medical student preparing for a project, a junior doctor, a senior paediatrician, or a dietician.

The dietary guidelines and food pyramid are particularly useful, as is the description of non-invasive methods for determining the body composition of children. The chapter on vegetarian diet is impressive, with a description of protein, calcium, iron, and vitamin sources for vegetarians, information not found in most books on nutrition. Of interest, the authors state that the incidence of iron deficiency anaemia in vegetarians is similar to that in non-vegetarians. The chapter is of particular interest in light of current concerns, such as mad cow disease and bird flu, which make a “change of the world to vegetarianism”, seem attractive.

The description of common drinks—including cola, apple juice, and orange juice (no description of diet cola)—and their electrolyte contents is of interest, although the reader may not pay much attention to this as the heading of table is “composition of common fluids”.

The chapter on hyperlipidaemia is very comprehensive and well written in the context of the current epidemic of obesity, with an overview of pathogenicity and management. The description of prebiotics and probiotics is excellent, with up-to-date references and description of side effects. The suggestion that fructo-oligosaccharides may increase faecal mass, hence relieving constipation, may spring more trials on the use of prebiotics in constipation. Research on lactobacillus GG in inflammatory bowel disease is also suggested. The chapter on prematurity is reasonably comprehensive, although the table on enteral feeding methods appears too prescriptive, but it will give a good idea to the beginner.

On the negative side there are no photographs or illustrations which would have helped readers, particularly of the vitamin deficiency conditions; the text is dominated by tables. American standards, units, and references are used for the nutritional recommendations and growth charts—a disadvantage for UK readers. Inclusion of a chapter on nutritional programming would have been useful.

Overall this is an excellent book, easy to read, with a comprehensive description of virtually all topics on paediatric nutrition.

R Gupta

Pre-published book reviews

Book reviews that have been accepted for publication but have not yet been published in the print journal can be viewed online at http://adc.bmjournals.com/misc/bookreviews.shtml