medicine have there been such rapid changes during the past decade. This is reflected in the number of new textbooks of infectious disease which have been published recently. Although many of these have been admirable they have not always given clear therapeutic recommendations.

Professor Ed Kass and Dr Richard Platt are to be congratulated on the present volume. With the collaboration of just over 100 colleagues, many of them distinguished American Infectious Diseases physicians, they have produced a first class and extremely practical manual on the treatment of infectious disease. I found the chapters on immunodeficiency states and on infection complicating immunosuppression particularly useful. Other admirable sections include those on infections of the urinary tract, toxoplasmosis and the toxic shock syndrome.

The United Kingdom clinician may be confused by the occasional reference to antibiotics not available in this country such as the anti-staphylococcal agents nafcillin and oxacillin. Apart from this the therapeutic recommendations are all extremely practical and in line with current thinking. I strongly recommend this book for all who are involved in the treatment of infection in its widest sense.

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New Drugs

Articles published in the *British Medical Journal*. Pp. 215. British Medical Association, London, 1983. £6.00 (including postage), \$20.75 (including air mail postage).

This collection of 21 articles under the title *New Drugs* has been compiled from the recent series published in the *British Medical Journal*. The invited contributors, two-thirds of whom are based in Dundee, have attempted to break away from the format of the popular *Today's Drugs* and *Today's Treatment* series, also published within the last decade by the B.M.J. Nevertheless the new title cannot conceal the similarities to the former series. The result is a useful collation of articles containing relevant information about drugs most of which are up to 15 years old. Many drugs which are technically 'new' but still in the development stages, or have only recently been marketed are not included.

The emphasis of the contribution is on the cardiovascular system (six articles), endocrine and nervous system (three articles each). The approach to the topics varies somewhat from chapter to chapter and editorial guidelines on chapter structure or length or referencing have not been rigorously applied.

Despite this minor criticism *New Drugs* is recommended as a 'good buy' to replace the earlier series, if the original B.M.J. articles were not torn out at the time of their original publication!

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The Normal Child. Some Problems of the Early Years and their Treatment

By R. S. ILLINGWORTH, 8th edn. Pp. 374, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh and London, 1983. £12.00.

The review of a new edition of such a classic text poses special problems including the avoidance of undue awe, affection or other emotions. Nevertheless, it must address itself to a new generation of readers.

The book is outstanding in its highly readable and comprehensive cover of a borderland of child health often still omitted from, or only touched on, in undergraduate studies, and of immense importance for all who meet children in the home, clinic or hospital.

There are some aspects though, which cloud this bright picture. Revision has not been sufficiently thorough. Who now sees children obsessed with a Hula Hoop or the Twist? Is relegation to an institution rather than fostering the necessary fate of babies with a potential mental handicap (130/131)? Are rickets or Pink Disease the likeliest causes of hypotonia (174) in 1984? Ounces and

Millilitres are mixed in infant feeding, perhaps reflecting current clinical experience.

In a book with biblical, literary and classical quotations, the Latin should at least be correct! [Rerum cognoscere causas—(V)], and there are unnecessary spelling errors [Maimonides—(97)] and elsewhere. These however are minor blemishes; more important is the authoritarian tone linked with some views that would not receive wide support. Do new borns turn their heads to the human voice immediately after birth (133)? Does a baby look to see where his dropped rattle has gone at 20 weeks (162/3) and play peep-bo after 5 months (164)? Is circumcision never warranted when both parents want it done (99)? Should all deep congenital dermal (sacroccygeal) sinuses be excised after the age of 2 years (94)? Is speech therapy useless for a child who is late to speak without other pathology—might not the worried parents have given up training appropriate to a younger age though still required to suit his developmental stage (178)?

The text rightly emphasises the unreliability of using specific ages for measuring achievement, yet when ages are quoted, it would be safer to choose a more widely agreed norm.

I was also doubtful regarding the larding of the text with some curious statements from Freud and Melanie Klein concerning thumb sucking, quoted without comment or discussion, or how these views are currently regarded, and other entertaining though somewhat arbitrarily chosen practises from different cultures (eg. uvulectomy) and historical periods included with too little comment to organize such anthropological wealth or to place it into proper context.

For paediatricians with some years experience, this book is a pleasure; for those with less experience, a more dangerous pleasure; and for those entering paediatrics or child health, a text to be enjoyed, discussed and argued about, but not to be accorded biblical status.

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The Physician's Book of Lists

By D. M. MARGULIES and M. S. THALER. Pp. xiii + 290. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh and London, 1983, £7.95.

'Everyone makes lists' the authors state at the start of the preface to this book, in which they later defend themselves against accusations of over simplification and lack of clinical judgement. None of us should expect education or instillation of clinical acumen from a book of lists: it cannot be the purpose of such a book to provide either. Each list is remarkably complete in itself, but this becomes partly a self-defeating exercise, for useful information is easily swamped by rarities. For instance under 'Causes of coma' both hypo- and hyperparathyroidism are mentioned as common causes and this they most certainly are not. This tendency to all-inclusiveness makes the book read more like a revision text for higher exams than a practical vade mecum. It is difficult to see how an active physician would use some of the lists given. In what situation would one want to look up 'Factors affecting bone metabolism' or 'Common drugs which can cause further damage'? In the several months that I have had this book in my office, I have found it less useful than conventional text books or monographs for day-to-day reference. The complete contents list does not unfortunately make-up for the absence of an index. Occasionally there is inadequate advice, such as in the diagnostic strategy for the clinically euthyroid patient with a thyroid nodule. In this situation where there is no history of irradiation to the neck and the nodule is cold on scan, the patient is always, for some reason an elderly female and always 'followed'. The advice appears to conflict with that given five pages later in 'thyroid carcinoma' which is itself a neat summary of the topic.

There is little trouble from the differences in medical practice between U.S.A. and U.K. because most of us can still manage to convert the occasional mg% to SI units, can identify isoprenalol as isoprenaline and recognise barbiturates ending in -al.

Blood gases give a little more problem but most of us are still bilingual.

The chief difficulty with this book for those who would wish to use it in clinical practice, rather than for examination purposes, is that it is necessary to know the contents well before knowing what to look for! An index would have helped greatly.

If you are prepared to learn the range and lay-out of the contents of this book, then there is much compact information given to jog the memory and this in a format which many people find acceptable. Unfortunately I do not find it useful in the practice of real live clinical medicine. It is well produced and reasonably priced.

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The Physiology of Hemostasis

By DEREK OGSTON. Pp. 378, illustrated. Croom Helm, London, Canberra, 1983. £19.95.

Amongst the several available multiauthor texts on haemostasis/thrombosis, none is solely concerned with human physiology, and this book admirably meets a need. After an introductory chapter providing an overview of the subject for the non-specialist, the book is divided into two general parts. The first deals with the components of the haemostatic system, their interactions with each other and with other physiological defence mechanisms. The second covers the changes which accompany or are caused by physiological events, including the effects of nutritional and environmental factors, pregnancy and hormones. Disease states and the effects of drugs are not considered in any detail. The book will be a valuable source of reference to specialists in the field, particularly those engaged in clinical research, but is also strongly recommended to those whose main interests lie in other areas. Professor Ogston is to be congratulated for writing such an informative and very readable book.

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Reflections on the Universities and the National Health Service

By SIR FRED DAINTON. The Rock Carling Fellowship, 1981. Pp. xvii + 165. The Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, London, 1983. £7.50.

A book from one of our leading scientist-statesmen on a topic of currently urgent concern to the Medical Schools is both welcome and timely. Sir Fred Dainton, a physical chemist with a distinguished research record, has been well placed to observe the University involvement in medical education, having been Vice-Chancellor in Nottingham during the establishment of the new Medical School there, as well as Chairman of the University Grants Committee, of the National Radiological Protection Board and of the Council of the Royal Postgraduate Medical School. His crisp judgments have won him the respect of our profession; his criticisms are penetrating but transparently well-intentioned. He sets out in this volume, which is based on a Rock Carling Lecture in 1981, to analyse the conflict between the Medical Schools and the Health Authorities which now all too often leaves the School at great disadvantage. It is a conflict now being faced in acute form in the London Teaching Districts, which find themselves unhappily in the situation of being RAWP losers but vital to the continued education of one-third of Britain's doctors. The background is comprehensively sketched in and Sir Fred's resumé of the history of the involvement of the State in University education and in medical research is masterly. It shows all too clearly how an era of expansion and progress has been brought to an end during the last 4 years. However, the prescription for our ills is, perhaps inevitably, a little

disappointing, almost suggesting 'Parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus'. It is proposed that a small change in the composition of the Authority in the Teaching Districts, giving greater weight to the University as opposed to the local council representation, would secure such a change in the climate of opinion that both DHSS and UGC would be better informed and therefore more likely to agree the UMT system for junior doctors could be abolished so that young graduates would be tempted into the pre-clinical departments, and Professors would happily ignore the rewards of private practice. Perhaps there is no solution to the University/NHS conflict and we must learn to live with it. Certainly, however, we shall not resolve it unless we recognise the increasing power of the Health Service managers, growing at the expense of the Authority membership, the role of the professional bodies both junior and senior in negotiating the terms of service for both NHS and Medical School staff, the current dependence of clinical academic departments upon private practice, and the overriding importance of adequate University funding to maintain the position of the School in any bargain which can be struck with the Health Authority.

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Smoking Control Strategies in Developing Countries. Report of W.H.O. Expert Committee

World Health Organization Technical Report Series 695. Pp. 92. World Health Organization, Geneva, 1983. Sw.fr. 8.00. (Available from HMSO, 49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6HB. Price £1.75.)

The third report of WHO on Smoking is concerned with its effect on developing countries. The committee was chaired by Dr A. R. Al-Awadi the dynamic Minister of Health from Kuwait. Its task was to suggest strategies for governments and public health authorities in developing countries to combat the spread of smoking-related diseases. Widespread smoking is considered a major stumbling block to the successful achievement of WHO's goal of Health for All by the Year 2000. The Committee was alarmed that while smoking was to some extent being brought under control in developed countries, developing countries are increasingly becoming targets for highly sophisticated and ruthless campaigns promoting smoking. The international tobacco industry's irresponsible behaviour and its massive advertising and promotional campaigns were considered to be direct causes of a substantial number of unnecessary deaths.

The report documents growing evidence that tobacco use has already become a major source of disease in many developing countries where problems of malnutrition and infectious diseases are still prevalent. High death rates for lung cancer are reported from India, China, Hong Kong, Cuba and the Bantu in Natal. Coronary heart disease associated with cigarette smoking is a major problem in India, Pakistan and the Philippines. Perinatal mortality rates are doubled in Bangladeshi women who smoke. Even traditional forms of smoking such as Bidi or Hookah are hazardous and oral cancer frequent in Asian men and women who chew tobacco. Health for All by the year 2000 is likely to be a vain hope for the millions in developing countries who succumb to the blandishments of the tobacco companies.

This is a valuable document not only for those concerned with the health of developing countries but also for those ready to expose the activities of our own major tobacco companies who are increasing their promotional activities and exports to developing countries in order to compensate for falling tobacco sales in the U.K. and other industrialised countries.

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