might seem of domestic importance only at first sight but it gives valuable information, on lipid metabolism especially. Similarly, a chapter on energy metabolism in different species (Baldwin) gives some clues as to why energy requirements and expenditure vary so much in human populations.

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Antifibrinolytic Drugs: Chemistry, Pharmacology and Clinical Usage, Derek Ogston. Pp. xiv + 180, illustrated. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1984. £15.00.

It comes as quite a surprise to the non-specialist to read, in this very well written small textbook by Professor Ogston, of the wide range of clinical situations in which antifibrinolytic drugs may be of use. Despite its size, this text has brought together a very large amount of information concerning the pharmacology and clinical usage of this somewhat controversial group of drugs. The book is divided into three sections beginning with a well structured introduction to the fibrinolytic enzyme system followed by sections on the mechanism of action, pharmacology and clinical pharmacology of the various anti-fibrinolytic drugs available and, finally, the section on clinical usage. The chapters on chemistry and pharmacology of the drugs are quite detailed but have been produced in small 'byte' sized pieces for ease of reference and retention. My only criticism of this part of the book is the limited use of explanatory diagrams. Those that are included are, however, most helpful. In the final section, the use of anti-fibrinolytic agents in clinical situations from subarachnoid haemorrhage through menorrhagia to protein-losing gastroenteropathy and possible influence on tumour growth and metastasis, are well covered in short sub-headed sections as in the first half of the book. The presence of an adequate index and extensive references to the text (over 300 related to clinical usage alone) makes this short text book a useful addition to the shelves of all those interested in the problems of thrombosis and anti-thrombotic therapy.

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Essentials of Nuclear Medicine, M.V. Merrick. Pp. vi + 312, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1984. £14.00.

Departments of Nuclear Medicine are now commonly found in district general hospitals in UK instead of, as previously, only in special centres. There has been for some time a need for a reasonably priced comprehensive but concise guide to current practice in this speciality which Dr Merrick's book satisfies admirably. Omitting much of the theoretical background, he has described basic techniques, their clinical

indications and relevance, and the significance and interpretation of the images and the quantitative data.

There are chapters on the brain and CNS, lungs, liver and spleen, heart, kidneys, skeleton, blood and RE system, gastro-intestinal tract, endocrine system, tumours and soft tissues and paediatric work. The material is up to date and in accord with current practice. Where less commonly used procedures are described, their indication and limitations are made clear. A bibliography for further reading is given at the end of each chapter, most references being later than 1980 with a few going back to 1975.

There is very little to which this reviewer could take exception. Appendix (2) in the contents list is entitled 'Dosage of Radiopharmaceuticals in Children' but actually turns out to be a table of radiation doses to the fetus from various procedures, which would not normally be used in pregnancy anyway.

There is some controversy about the best way of doing ventilation perfusion lung scan and several of these are discussed; but if krypton 81^m is available most single gamma camera departments would prefer to do a simultaneous ventilation-perfusion scan at one visit.

These criticisms are minor, however, and I am sure will be corrected in subsequent editions. While there can be no substitute for an adequate period of practical training in a department of Nuclear Medicine, this book will serve as a sound introduction to the speciality as well as a reference source for clinicians.

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Gynecologic Ultrasound, edited by William B. Steel and William J. Cochrane, Clinics in Diagnostic Ultrasound. Vol. 15. Pp. xiii + 194, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1984. £27.00.

A textbook edited by a radiologist and an obstetrician/gynaecologist is a rare event. As every gynaecologist knows, few radiologists are familiar with gynaecology; and, as every radiologist knows, most gynaecologists will proceed to laparoscopy or laparotomy anyway. On such mutual distrust have relations between the two been traditionally based. But the potential ability of ultrasound, computed tomography and interventional techniques to allow the gynaecologist to stay his hand requires the radiologist/ultrasonographer to understand the overall clinical picture. This book attempts to inform both, and constantly stresses the importance of collaboration.

This book is well written and concise. The repetition often found in multi-author texts has been severely discouraged by the editors. Bibliographies are reasonably up-to-date.

The chapters on the paediatric pelvis, gestational trophoblastic disease, ectopic pregnancy and pelvic malignancy contain a wealth of clinical and diagnostic detail. However, since common things are common, I regret the omission of a chapter on uterine fibroids. Ovarian follicle monitoring might also have been included.

Less happily, transatlantic 'black-on-white' scans are occasionally juxtaposed with those we would consider more correct. This may be confusing for the less experienced.

Spelling errors rarely intrude, but I was unhappy to see one of Professor Ian Donald's original team mis-named as 'MacVican' on page 83.

I enjoyed this book and recommend it to ultrasound technicians, radiologists with ultrasound responsibilities, and gynaecologists. It is indeed an appropriate memorial to Dr Bill Steel, a pioneer of ultrasound, who sadly died during its preparation.

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Hypnotherapy of Pain in Children with Cancer, Josephine R. Hilgand and Samuel LeBaron. Pp. x + 250, William Kaufmann, Los Altos, California, 1984. £18.95.

This book provides a comprehensive and valuable discussion of the use of hypnosis to help children with pain and anxiety. However, a previous lack of interest in hypnosis should not deter the reader as the text reveals fascinating aspects of children's use of fantasy and coping mechanisms which have broader implications than just hypnosis.

After an introduction to hypnosis, its use in children and in the relief of pain, the book centres around work performed at Stanford Children's Hospital. It focuses particularly on a carefully constructed study of the value of hypnosis for children with malignant diseases undergoing repeated bone marrow aspirations. The design, techniques used and overall results, both successes and failures, are reported. A chapter also describes how the same techniques were adapted to other specific symptoms of distress in individual patients. One of the most exciting and helpful aspects of this book are the frequent detailed and vivid examples of individual children's hypnotic experiences, which the authors then relate to factors such as the children's ages, hypnotic potential and their ability to experience pain relief. In the course of their studies a number of children were found who had developed their own coping mechanisms, and these are also explored. An important chapter integrates many of their ideas into developing what they call 'a therapeutic atmosphere' in the oncology unit and the roles of the parents, nurses and physicians in this. The latter part of the book concentrates more on theoretical aspects and the development of hypnotic ability in children with a final chapter of suggestions for future research and potential. There is a comprehensive reference list and good index.

The work described has been concerned primarily with helping children over acute episodes of pain and it is clear that the hypnotherapists were extremely sensitive and ingenious as well as technically capable. It will be of interest to see whether others can have equal success with hypnotherapy in the same or related situations. Although the authors do not specify, my impression is that this book is aimed at those with some background in psychology. However, it is written clearly and directly, avoiding jargon, so that it can be recommended to anyone involved in the care of seriously ill children.

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In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer, edited by Alan Trounson and Carl Wood. Pp.vix + 254, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1984. £25.00.

The techniques and ethics of *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) have been the subject of much debate and scientific study since Steptoe and Edwards reported their first successful delivery of a live healthy female infant in 1978 utilizing the technique. Several hundred babies world wide have now been delivered following IVF procedures. The techniques have their genesis in the basic sciences and it is fitting that the authors acknowledge this by the extent of these chapters in the text. These give the reader a clear understanding of the mechanisms involved in producing mature, viable, fertilizable oocytes and the difficulties encountered in the assessment of human embryos and establishment of implantation.

The third section reviews some of the practical aspects involved with selection of patients for treatment and problems encountered during oocyte collection and embryo transfer. This book is not a practical manual for those wishing to set up an IVF treatment service but is a text to be read by anyone involved in this field to provide a broad and well balanced background. The book cannot be held to be comprehensive but in an area of medicine so rapidly developing this can only be expected. This book has many attributes and should be of interest to scientists, clinicians and students in the understanding of a critical new technology in human reproductive medicine.

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Manual of Paediatric Gastroenterology, John H. Tripp and David C. A. Candy. Pp.iii + 168, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1985. £8.95.

The authors and the publishers are to be complimented for introducing this new Manual series of which this is the first. It provides for the young clinician a convenient source of reference, clearly laid out and problem orientated. The 'telegraphic style' was intended to make it particularly 'usable'.

In just over 150 pages, the subject is extremely well covered and the information it provides is precise, with good sound, useful factual information, such as the prevalence of certain conditions. I particularly liked the awareness of developing countries, and putting the relevance of acute diarrhoea in perspective (p.24) 'Reduction in mortality from this cause is the major programme for WHO for the 1980s'.

Intestinal and abdominal disorders in children can often be complex and difficult to evaluate and manage. This book provides up to date information on what is and is not known. The schemes for management and investigation are particularly helpful and comprehensive. In a book of this size, it is helpful that even rare conditions such as Crohn's disease are included.