Progress in Child Health, Vol. 2. Edited by J.A. Macfarlane. Pp. vi + 235, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £18.00.

A welcome change in attitudes to child health in the community has occurred in recent years and the 'Progress in Child Health' series reflects this change. Like its predecessor, Volume 2 consists of a series of essays by specialists drawn from a wide variety of disciplines. Sensible and practical advice on the diagnosis and management of the sort of common problems encountered in community clinics forms the main part of the volume. Topics covered include sleep disorders in young children, atopic eczema, allergies, dental problems, congenital dislocation of the hip, immunization. Those working in schools will find the chapters on learning disorders in children, glue sniffing, truancy and school refusal, acne, etc, most helpful. There are also a number of chapters on more organizational aspects of Child Health provision.

This series has started well and has thus far achieved its declared aim of providing an authoritative annual update on Child Health issues. It deserves a place on the bookshelf of all Clinical Medical Officers. Community Paediatricians and General Practitioners, and hospital-based Paediatricians will also find it useful. At £18.00 it is still moderately priced, but this does represent a 50% increase on the price of Volume 1.

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Recent Advances in Surgery, No. 12. Edited by R.C.G. Russell. Pp. x + 286, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £12.95.

In these days when the mass of surgical knowledge seems to be increasing exponentially, the surgeon breathes a sigh of relief when a new edition of *Recent Advances in Surgery* appears. In this volume, edited by Mr R.C.G. Russell of the Middlesex Hospital, he will not be disappointed. As usual, it presents a series of helpful review articles by well-recognized authorities on subjects of current general interest. This twelfth edition well reflects the change in emphasis towards minimal invasive investigations and treatment: thus, there are chapters on guided abdominal fine needle puncture, the investigation of thyroid swellings, gastrointestinal endoscopy, and new minimal invasive methods of treatment of renal and ureteric stones. There are excellent chapters on early cancer detection and the use of monoclonal antibodies. Other sections include hiatus hernia, vascular surgery, oesophageal varices, stomach cancer, pancreatitis, fracture management and dissecting aneurysm. There are interesting general chapters on the use of computers and on suture materials.

The text is clearly presented, easy to read and provided

with clear diagrams and an up to date bibliography. It is certainly a book that all general surgeons will enjoy reading.

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Respiratory Medicine. N. McI. Johnson. Pocket Consultant Series. Pp. 369, illustrated. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Boston, Palo Alto, Melbourne, 1986. £12.50.

The book is designed to fit into the pocket of doctors and nurses on general medical wards as well as those working in chest clinics, and also into those of medical students and general practitioners. The book is organised in four main sections, starting with a history and examination as related to respiratory medicine followed by a list of laboratory investigations relevant to respiratory diseases with the main indications and abnormalities that may be found. There is then a fuller section on the chest X-ray giving the main differential diagnoses for various different radiological presentations. The third section deals with specific diseases and finally there is a section on therapy. The book is written in a lecture note style with many lists. The quality of the X-ray reproductions is generally good and the text is freely illustrated. I was disappointed by a lack of modern account of lung sounds (there is considerable confusion in terminology between moist crepitations, rales and crackles); the lack of clear guidance as to which tests should be organised in which situation and which tests are less important, and in general by a somewhat restrained and unexciting approach to respiratory medicine. The section on the treatment of tuberculosis was out of date and did not comply with the recommendations of the British Thoracic Society.

I felt this small book was more suitable for examination revision for finals than for reference in a clinical situation for which it lacked sufficient detail (for instance, on several occasions it said that theophylline dosage should be adjusted to maintain optimal blood levels but the optimal blood levels were never stated). It is a nicely printed and produced book.

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Schizophrenia: an Integrative View. Edited by C.L. Cazzullo and G. Invernizzi. Biological Psychiatry – New Prospects: 6. Pp. ix + 402, illustrated. John Libbey, London, Paris, 1985. £22.00, US\$38.00, FF290.

Schizophrenia is a common psychiatric disorder affecting in this country about 1% of the population. Yet its name has a social stigma and its diagnosis is at times both difficult and contentious. Much research has been carried out into biological, social, dynamic and phenomenological aspects of

aetiology, diagnosis, natural history and treatment and many publications have arisen from this research.

This book which is written by a group of international authors mainly working in Italy and the United States is based on a symposium in Milan in 1984 on schizophrenia and, as the title suggests, attempts to present an integrated view of schizophrenia. It is divided into four sections – cultural and social aspects; the psychic milieu; biological aspects; and integrative strategies for treatment. Each section contains a number of chapters or papers on different areas.

Many of the papers are based on research while others are reviews and personal perspectives. They are of variable quality and appeal, with the latter perhaps depending in the reader. I found the print awkward to follow especially the habit of splitting words at the end of a line. Given its professed attempt to integrate different aspects of schizophrenia an index would have been helpful.

I have reservations as to whether its focus is too generalized for specialists in the field while not being authoritative enough for general psychiatrists. I suspect that its main place of rest in this country will be on the library shelves of medical and psychiatric institutions.

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Upper Extremity Replantation: Basic Principles, Surgical Technique, and Strategy. Viktor E. Meyer. Pp.ix + 121, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1985. £39.00.

It is almost 25 years since the first reattachment of an amputated arm by Malt in Boston. Such events are no longer newsworthy; advances in microsurgical technique have made it possible to reattach most amputated parts of the upper limb, so this book provides a timely review of the subject. It is based on experience of over 160 replantations at the author's unit in Zurich. It begins with a discussion of the organization of equipment and personnel necessary for provision of a 24-hour replantation service. The second chapter covers basic microsurgical techniques, with a review of the effects of these manoeuvres on small vessels, and the teaching of microsurgery is discussed.

While the description of operative technique is mainly for those working in the field, the chapter on indications and contra-indications for replantation will interest a much wider audience. This aspect of the subject is covered in detail, with the importance of the patient's functional requirements in relation to the expected result of replantation given the emphasis it deserves. The section on surgical technique is excellent; the need for painstaking attention to detail and unlimited time comes over clearly. The principles and strategy of replantation are discussed and then the repair of each injured tissue is covered in detail. There is less information on the critical period of post-operative care and monitoring. For example, there is no mention of the risk of smoking or exposure to cold.

The text is concise and lucid. There are numerous good-quality photographs, supplemented by a series of anatomical drawings. For the small number of surgeons and trainees who reattach severed limbs, this book is essential reading. It should be in the library of every hospital where hand surgery is taught. It is too specialized for the general reader, but parts of it would interest and benefit anyone who deals with the initial care of injured patients.

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