Edinburgh, for the keen undergraduate who likes to be well informed and for the junior resident in the North American training programme.

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Practical Paediatric Problems, Sixth Edition, by James H. Hutchison and Forrester Cockburn. Pp.xxi + 727, illustrated. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books), London, 1986. £17.50.

This well-known textbook, first published twenty-two years ago, now appears in its sixth edition under dual authorship. It does not attempt to cover the whole spectrum of paediatrics and excludes diseases of the eye, ear and skin and the common infectious diseases.

Inevitably, some areas are covered in greater detail than others, but a few common problems, like the innocent cardiac murmurs, are not discussed. A greater worry is the failure to consistently quote drug doses by body weight or surface area as in the dose of molar bicarbonate recommended for neonatal resuscitation.

If it is to appeal to the next generation, not only will some chapters need radical revision, like those concerning diseases of the urinary tract and 'mental deficiency', but some restructuring would be welcome – for example, a chapter on the spectrum of child abuse and neglect.

However, much of the book has been extensively revised and successfully takes a position between the slim undergraduate text and the comprehensive 'heavyweights'. It is easy to read, clearly written, well indexed and good value for money.

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Recent Advances in Rheumatology, No. 4, edited by J.M.H. Moll and R.D. Sturrock. Pp.ix + 256, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £40.00.

In their preface the editors state their aim as being to cover topics which offer 'something new, something new about something old; or something old once more brought to the fore by "fashion".' Thus this volume opens with *Advances in Molecular Genetics* by John Connor who provides the clinician with an introduction to human gene organisation, gene manipulation and the clinical application of gene probes which is commendably clear and concise. DNA diagnosis in human single gene disorders is described and the potential in prenatal recognition and thus possibly avoidance of for example hereditary chondrocalcinosis, Marfan's syndrome,

the epiphyseal dysplasias and Lesch-Nyhan syndrome is foreseen. The elucidation of the relationships between HLA-D4, C4 and slow acetylation of hydralazine in the production of the lupus syndrome provides a relevant example of the application of molecular genetics to multifactorial disorders.

In *Iron Free Radicals and Chronic Inflammation*, Blake and his team assert a role for free-radical effects in the inflammatory process which only a few years ago found little acceptance. Their speculations relating oxygen free radical generation by monocytes to suppressor T-cell precursor function and even to the creation of IgG self-antigens have helped to bring such previously esoteric studies within the mantle of immunological respectability. However, some may part company from them over the centrality of iron metabolism and in particular over desferrioxamine treatment of rheumatoid subjects where possible short term benefits are overshadowed by both high cost and notable toxicity.

The role of leukotrienes as mediators of inflammation, well described by J.J.F. Belch, has a particular relevance in view of the recent resurgence of interest in the modification of dietary fat intake in arthritis. This chapter provides the necessary theoretical background and wisely warns against over-simplification and premature enthusiasm.

Those involved in postgraduate teaching will revel in Professor Bellamy's table of the 32 conditions affecting the sacro-iliac joint, including pustulotic arthro-osteitis! This excellent chapter brings together what is known of 'an enigmatic articulation'. There is too a practical message – to stop anti-inflammatory drugs before sending the patient for scintillation scanning – if you believe it to be of diagnostic value, which remains a controversy.

It is an editor's privilege to indulge himself just a little and Dr Moll has done so with his chapter on Medical Communication. Anyone hoping to communicate well whether with patients or postgraduates would do well to read this and for this reason it deserves publication in a less compressed format, preferably illustrated with the artistic skills for which he is renowned, not buried in a volume intended mostly for the specialist in one area of medical practice.

Anti-Rheumatic Drugs in the Elderly by John Goode inevitably enumerates more retreats than advances. Although it contains little really new it is full of useful practical points to be considered in the drug treatment of the older patient. One of the most illuminating contributions is that of L.G. Millard: *Rheumatology and the Dermatologist*, particularly in the area of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and of drug therapy. His view that late-onset D-penicillamine dermatopathy is related to chelation of zinc whilst attractive is somewhat confounded by the common occurrence of high copper and low zinc levels in active rheumatoid disease regardless of therapy until that treatment succeeds when values return toward the normal without zinc supplements. With the current interest in methotrexate both in psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis the review of cytotoxic therapy by Klippel is timely and thorough. Andrei Calin in *New Thoughts on Radiotherapy in the Management of Chronic Arthritis* draws on his experience at Stanford with the use of total lymphnode irradiation for severe SLE and rheumatoid cases, emerging with cautious optimism and a call for comparative studies with azathioprine, whilst acknowledging problems of cost and long-term safety.

The Role of the Rheumatologist in the Management of Sports Injuries (Murray Leslie) is accepted with reluctance or