The Normal Child, 10th Edition, edited by Ronald Illingworth. Pp. ix + 450, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, Tokyo, 1991. £22.50, paperback.

When Ronald Illingworth died in 1990, paediatrics lost one of its founding fathers. The first edition of this book in 1953 represented a landmark in paediatric literature. Professor Illingworth's premise was that a knowledge of normal growth and development is essential if the abnormal is to be identified. Absence of this knowledge prevents the reassurance of parents and the allaying of their anxieties. There can be few paediatricians who have not read this book, and fewer who have failed to benefit from the exercise. The appearance of this tenth edition is a testament to its continuing relevance.

This edition has been extensively revised. The major sections cover feeding, growth and development, and behaviour. All reveal Illingworth's characteristic alloy of wisdom and encyclopaedic knowledge. Few authors would include chapters entitled 'Helping children to achieve their potential' and 'Discipline and punishment'. I enjoyed the dogma of statements such as 'the basis of good behaviour is praise and love, not blame and punishment.' No *P*-values, no confidence intervals, but who's arguing? The excellent section on development starts off with the observation that 'diagnosis does not consist of observing what a child does, but the way that they do it'.

There are some flaws as well as such gems. Despite the importance of growth, the chapter on height and weight occupies less than eight pages of text. Astonishingly, it contains no illustrations of percentile charts, the foundation for assessing growth in children. By contrast, feeding is awarded 60 pages and contains some sections which seem curiously out of date. Expressions such as illegitimate, mental subnormality and coloured children are archaic. The short section on sudden infant death gives the misleading impression that such deaths are the result of poor parenting. I was puzzled by the sequence of some of the chapters.

These are minor criticisms. New readers, whether they are involved with the community or hospital care of children and their families, will be rewarded by reading this classic. Old readers could still pick up a tip or two. I hope

that the publishers will find another paediatrician to take up the banner that Professor Illingworth has raised, and that we will see an eleventh edition. It would be another worthy epitaph to a remarkable physician.

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Emergency Medical Treatment, 3rd Edition, edited by Nancy L. Caroline. Pp. 675, 220 illustrations. A Little, Brown Medical title, Distributed by Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1991. £18.95, paperback.

This textbook of street and ambulance emergency care by the visiting professor of critical care medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, USA is a comprehensive, clear and sometimes witty, tour around its clinical area. It is well constructed and the accompanying workbook consolidates its value as a teaching text.

It is however, very firmly based in the experience and practice of the United States medical services and is not directly transferable to this country. As it is a training text for American EMTs, it perforce contains instructions which are either not presently part of NHS paramedic protocols or, indeed, are counter to what is regarded as good practice in accident and emergency medicine in the UK. Specifically, it makes frequent reference to the desirability of the use of the MAST suit in trauma care (including chest injury), despite acknowledging that the suit's safety and usefulness is now widely questioned, even in the USA. Other differences of practice between the EMT and NHS paramedic services are reflected in the drugs recommended for the treatment of medical emergencies.

Notwithstanding, this is a useful accompanying text to paramedic study of basic clinical information and may be recommended to ambulance personnel undergoing extended training and to others interested in out-of-hospital emergency care.

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