advice about a particular problem and he suggests that a
good response is narrow and precise. With this in mind I
looked forward to reading a book that addressed specific
problems in general surgery. Instead I found yet another
systematic approach only this time compressed into too small
a space to be comprehensive. The book is small, to fit the
pocket, and yet is spiral bound and therefore not very robust.
The print is small and the tables and diagrams often
complicated. The illustrative photographs, however, are very
good, particularly the radiology.

The text is mostly clear and well written and the content is
up to date, well argued and enjoyable reading. I enjoyed most
of the sections and in particular the ones on breast and
vascular disease but in both instances I was left wishing for
more.

Dr Reinhold says in his preface ‘Who needs another book
about surgery?’ I am sure there is a place for such a book but
unfortunately this one falls between two stools, and it is not
good value for money at £19.

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£12.50.

Authors of articles and books about modern-day Saudi
Arabia tend either to be distracted by the more sensationalist
aspects of that developing country or to document simply the
dry facts and figures which, although astonishing, do not give
a satisfactory picture of Saudi society.

Professor Moloney has avoided these pitfalls in a most
entertaining account of some of his experiences whilst
working as Professor of Surgery at the University of Riyadh
from 1977 to 1982. In addition he has provided a potted history
of the country, a guide to cultural mores and short
biographies of the kings following King Abdul Aziz, the
founder of the kingdom.

The last section of the book is a potpourri of medical
topics. Some of the diseases encountered in Saudi Arabia are
mentioned, traditional forms of medical therapy, such as
cauterization, are discussed and, finally, there are accounts of
three field trips undertaken with students to different parts of
the kingdom to study community health problems. This is the
least satisfactory part of the book since there is too much
medical detail for the lay reader but too little to be useful to
the practising physician.

In one of the most fascinating sections Professor Moloney
describes his travels, and attendant adventures, in many parts
of the country. Such touristic glimpses of Saudi Arabia rarely
find their way into print and form a valuable addition to the
accounts of earlier travellers.

The book is lightly written in an almost conversational
style which makes for easy reading but sometimes leads to a
rather disjointed narrative. A keen clinical eye is cast on all
events which are then conveyed to the reader with understand-
ing, a lively sense of fun and not a little affection.

I believe the book will succeed best as an introduction to
life in Saudi Arabia for the prospective worker in that
country who will find it a useful prophylactic against
inevitable culture shock.

Gerald Bevan
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Edgware, Middlesex.

Hypoglycaemia in Infancy and Childhood. Albert Aynsley-
Green and Gyula Soltesz. Current Reviews in Paediatrics
Series. Pp. vii + 165, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edin-

This book forms volume I of a new series of current reviews in
paediatrics and covers a very important topic.

The first chapter describes the regulation of carbohydrate
metabolism with the inclusion of fetal glucose homeostasis
being particularly welcome. Subsequent chapters describe
hypoglycaemia in the paediatric age group with emphasis on
the mechanisms leading to hypoglycaemia. Neonatal hy-
pglycaemia and hyperinsulinism are comprehensively
covered with clear discussion of areas of controversy.

Hypoglycaemia due to inborn errors of metabolism is less
well covered. Undue prominence is given to some extremely
rare, although interesting, disorders, for example glycogen
synthetase deficiency, whilst others are omitted, for example
hereditary tyrosinaemia. Accelerated starvation syndrome
and defects of fatty acid metabolism, which are being
increasingly recognized as causes of hypoglycaemia, are
clearly discussed.

The final chapter describes a practical, but thorough,
approach to the diagnosis of the cause of hypoglycaemia in
childhood. The references are comprehensive and the only
criticism of the figures is the failure to use SI units through-
out.

This volume is of interest to all paediatricians, especially
those with an interest in neonatology, endocrinology or
metabolic disease. It may be a little detailed for the MRCP
candidate but gives welcome prominence to the importance
of the basic sciences in paediatrics.

Jane Collins
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London WC1N 1EH.

Lymph Node Biopsy Interpretation. Edited by A.G. Stansfeld.
Pp. v + 419, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh,
London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £60.00.

The aim of this work is to assist general hospital histopath-
ologists in the interpretation of lymph node biopsy
specimens, and in this it is likely to succeed. The editor and
Hypoglycaemia in Infancy and Childhood

Jane Collins

Postgrad Med J 1986 62: 899
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Updated information and services can be found at: http://pmj.bmj.com/content/62/731/899.2.citation

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