corporal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), and neonatal oxygen radical disease. Thus, Aynsley-Green gives a beautifully lucid explanation of the recently recognized defects in beta-oxidation of fatty acids and the serious implications for the child and family if the diagnosis is missed and appropriate dietary strategies are not instituted.

Mok's description of the management of HIV infection stresses the importance of close monitoring and the benefit of early institution of appropriate treatment including azidothymidine (AZT). The success of ECMO in the longer term support of infants with severe reversible cardiac and respiratory problems is clearly described by Brutozao and its efficacy in reversing the very high predicted mortality in such patients. The management of severe asthma in young children is helpfully reviewed by Canny, including the value of continuous nebulization of salbutamol, possibly supplemented by intermittent ipratropium. Addition of intravenous salbutamol may avert the need for positive pressure ventilation in a majority of patients heading this way, though patient fatigue is an absolute indication for ventilation.

The chapter on neonatal oxygen radical disease presents a feasible and convincing explanation for a common pathogenesis in such common conditions as retinopathy of prematurity, bronchopulmonary dysplasia and necrotizing enterocolitis.

The final chapter, a literature review, is wide ranging and very useful in listing some key references for recent developments. The book is stimulating, informative and has the potential to influence some areas of current paediatric practice. It is strongly recommended to the practising paediatrician and equally to those in training. It is well worth the very modest cost.

B.L. Priestley
Children's Hospital,
Western Bank,
Sheffield S10 2TH.


The more correct title for this book would be treatment of inherited metabolic disease. Dr Desnick is a foremost biochemical geneticist and his multi-author American book reflects this. The book deals with each topic exhaustively and has much detailed advice about treatment and monitoring -- the book is an excellent introduction to anyone in paediatrics new to the field -- it provides much more than a discussion of treatment: the disorders themselves are discussed in some detail so that the rationale of treatments can be better understood. Those working in metabolic paediatrics will also find the detailed advice on treatment and the discussions useful.

The book is divided into four sections: metabolic treatment which deals with dietary restriction and additives such as induction of an anabolic state using alanine in disorders like propionic acidemia; enzyme replacement therapy which has new life since the successes of glucocerebroidase in type 1 Gaucher disease; and a section on bone marrow transplantation for various storage disorders. All these sections suffer from the repetition found in multi-author books with chapters on related topics.

For me, the book became 'alive' in its last section-- five chapters devoted to gene therapy and in utero therapy. As in Britain, germ-line gene therapy for humans is prohibited in America and thus the main discussion is the use of somatic gene therapy. Pros and cons of various viral vectors, for example, retroviruses, adeno-associated virus and of various target sites, for example, hepatocytes, keratinocytes and muscle cells, are discussed. These target organs are for the production of gene products not specific to those organs but which would function elsewhere in the body. Tissue specific gene therapy is given a little attention in a chapter on herpes virus as a vector with neurotropism. The difficulty in its use will be maintenance of the virus in its latent non-cytotoxic state, while the incorporated treatment-gene expresses itself. The in utero section gives up to date advice on maternal treatment to prevent virilization in congenital adrenal hyperplasia.

I was disappointed to see no attention paid to cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy. The book does not address ethical issues of these new challenging therapies at all. Its very factual approach will prove useful to many in this field.

Maurice Super
Clinical Genetics Unit,
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital,
Hospital Road,
Pendlebury,
Manchester M27 1HA.


This is a concise introduction to the concepts of 'need' and 'outcome', methods of measuring these and their application to primary health care. The authors aimed the book at 'practitioners, managers and academics working in the field of primary health care . . . who do not have the time, resources, and/or expertise to evaluate the available instruments'. The first three chapters provide the necessary theoretical background to allow the reader to understand the body of the book.

The succeeding six chapters systematically present a number of measures of function, mental illness, social support, multidimensional assessment, patient satisfaction and a few miscellaneous or disease-specific measures. Each instrument is described succinctly; its advantages and flaws summarized, and its usefulness commented on. These chapters will provide an excellent source for anybody who wishes to measure any of the topics covered but has no prior experience in the field. Most of the measures are reproduced in full and I found this the most useful aspect of the book as it allows for rapid assessment of the suitability of each measure for the purpose required. This section is well referenced and the authors urge any prospective user of any of the measures to follow up the references.

In summary, this is a succinct, well laid out book which is easy to use. It is a useful source book for anyone planning research or audit in primary health care and
Treatment of Genetic Diseases

Maurice Super

doi: 10.1136/pgmj.69.809.247

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