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