that may be present intra-cellularly. The glucose tolerance criteria given are not exactly those offered by the World Health Organisation or by, for example, The British Diabetic Association.

In the endocrine sections similar comments can be made in a number of areas. Cushing's disease and Cushing's syndrome are not clearly differentiated. In discussion of medullary carcinoma of the thyroid, no mention of other endocrine malignancy is made, and no clear description of multiple endocrine adenomatosis is given. Similarly with phaeochromocytoma there is no mention of other tumours or of the familial nature in some patients. While a preparation for surgery is described, it does not make clear that the patient should have the preparation prior to some of the investigations outlined. In discussing the use of phentolamine in this condition, for the emergency treatment of a hypertensive episode, it is not made clear that 5 mg of phentolamine intravenously can produce profound hypotension. A continuing list of such comments is perhaps not appropriate for this review, and in the short space offered by this text it is obviously difficult to decide what information should be included and what omitted.

This text is easy to read and quite informative, as far as it goes, but the few inaccuracies, the omissions, and the approach to patterns of investigation for particular conditions are such that this text cannot be recommended without reservation to medical students as their prime source of endocrine and diabetic education.

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Notes on Psychiatry, Sixth edition, by I.M. Ingram, G.C. Timbury and R.M. Mowbray. Churchill Livingstone Medical Texts. Pp. iii + 173. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £4.95.

This brief book, now in its sixth edition, has clearly sold well in the past. The notes on the back cover suggest it is 'a clear and concise guide to psychiatry for undergraduate students as well as those postgraduates studying for M.R.C.P. and M.R.C.Psych. examinations'. Considering these three groups in reverse order, the text is far too brief for M.R.C. Psych. students, but at least they would have the knowledge to detect some of the errors in the book. The M.R.C.P. candidate may find the book a useful summary but some areas are insufficiently discussed for this group, the obvious examples being physical presentations of psychiatric illness and drug interactions. Finally, the group for whom I feel the book is really intended – the undergraduate medical and perhaps nursing students, – the text is too brief if this is the only psychiatry book the student will use, and I fear having armed himself with this precis there may be the presumption by the student that he is adequately equipped for the subject. In some cases the balance of the length of chapters seems to be lacking for a general reader, for example, the chapter on disorders of sex and reproduction is given twice as much space as is allocated for that on psychogeriatric problems.

Other disconcerting features of the book stem from its brevity. The chapter on the psychiatric interview provides a good 'crib list' that is likely to leave the student doing the history by rote rather than with understanding. An example of 'textbook hand-me-down information' is the inclusion of proverbs as a test of concrete thinking without pointing out that this is of no relevance in diagnosing schizophrenia (which the student is otherwise likely to presume). In the pursuit of brevity some other simplifications were made and this reviewer was irritated that section numbers for the Scottish Mental Health Act were not provided – surely leaving this group of students without what is clearly considered by the authors to be relevant information south of the Border.

I found approximately three dozen statements which I thought were either factually incorrect or displayed an attitude which I found hard to palate. Despite the above criticisms there were a number of features which I found particularly positive. Best of these was the use of epidemiological figures and other statistics at the start of many of the chapters to give the uninitiated reader a perspective as to the likelihood of seeing a particular group of patients. The chapter on psychological tests and the three chapters towards the end of the book on treatment are all very good with the account of the range of psychological treatments being exceptional in view of the limited (eight pages) allocation of space.

I am sure this book will continue to sell well – students always like brief notes. I would, however, exhort the authors to make slightly extended notes in the seventh edition when it appears.

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Orthopaedic Surgery: Basic Science and Clinical Science, by Juan J. Rodrigo. Pp. xi + 643, illustrated. Little, Brown, Boston, Toronto, 1986. £38.60.

The aim of the book is to be comprehensive and to include all the basic subjects in science and clinical medicine relevant to the practice of orthopaedic surgery. The author has succeeded in this difficult task and deserves congratulations on a fine production of core material. As the book is directed to North American readers the first section on anatomy, physiology, histology and biochemistry will probably be glossed over by British students. Chapters on the disorders and injuries of the musculoskeletal system in children and adults are similar to many other books but are right up-to-date. However, the author breaks new ground with a section on biomechanics, orthoses and amputations, topics rarely discussed in basic textbooks; and for completeness the appendix deals with physical signs, splints and traction. There is no doubt that a careful study of the volume will provide an excellent foundation for orthopaedic knowledge. Dr Rodrigo's book will be useful for British postgraduate students preparing for the special examination in orthopaedic surgery held by the Royal College of Surgeons of

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