having been involved in the administration and practice of sports medicine for many years, and his chapters make very fascinating reading.

The opening chapter is controversial, dealing with the medico-legal aspects of sport injuries and in the light of violence both on and off the pitch at present, is worthy of more than a few lines and provides much food for thought amongst sport administrators. Subsequent chapters deal with the organisation and teaching of sports medicine and contain a great deal of valuable information. Those on training are well handled, not gone into in great depth, but would make a sound basis for further reading.

The prevention and treatment of injuries reflects the vast knowledge the author has accumulated during his work and those sections on the treatment of the unconscious patient on the sport field are especially valuable as so often in these circumstances the victim is mishandled with occasional disastrous effects.

This book I believe is not only for the medical practitioner, for which it is obviously intended, but also would benefit the paramedical profession associated with sports medicine who will find this an excellent reference manual. Each chapter is complete in itself, is easily read and the bibliography is extensive. I would certainly consider this a useful addition to the bookshelves of any doctor with a passing interest in sport or sport injuries and a must for those who consider they have a special interest in the subject.

Adrian Whiteson
58 Wimpole Street,
London W1M 7DE.

Goldberg's Genetic and Metabolic Eye Disease, Second edition, edited by William Andrew Renie. Pp. xiii + 574, illustrated. Little, Brown, Boston, Toronto, 1986. £72.90.

The first edition of this book was published in 1974 since when there have been massive changes in the depth and range of knowledge pertaining to all aspects of genetics. This second edition is, therefore, timely, and has a number of changes compared with its predecessors, the main ones being a new chapter on DNA technologies and resultant changes dealing with biochemical techniques and cytogenetics.

The book is in two main parts, the first dealing with methods of study in genetic eye disease and the second with genetic determination of clinical eye disease.

The first section is outstanding and, despite multi-authorship, has a uniform style which is readable, informative and of high scientific content. The second section is larger, and comprehensive, the balance of subjects in the section fairly reflecting the incidence of defects and, of course, the authors' expertise. However, it would have been helpful to have had a chapter included on neuro-muscular hereditary diseases with related ocular problems, and more emphasis on hereditary syndromes with mainly medical defects and consequent ocular problems.

There is an extensive bibliography at the end of each chapter although the most recent references seem to be at least three years old, which no doubt reflects the problems of editing a book of 20 chapters and 35 authors. Nevertheless, this is a book which all academic departments of ophthalmology should possess, despite its price, for the first section

alone. Perhaps the third edition, which will surely come about, may include some of the suggestions mentioned.

A.L. Crombie
*Department of Ophthalmology,
The Royal Victoria Infirmary,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4LP.*

Haematology, David Linch and A.P. Yates. Colour Aids Series. Pp. ii + 124, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £5.95.

This little book on Haematology in the Colour Aids series is a delight to peruse. A combination of clinical pictures with the blood and marrow films together with other laboratory aspects epitomises that delight of haematology, a combination of clinical and laboratory practice and as such will, I am sure, serve to stimulate any budding student, doctor or MLSO to enter haematology.

However, the succinct thumbnail sketches of each disease with associated pictures cannot explain the pathophysiology in the manner of the larger standard student textbooks but I suspect the book will be extremely valuable to students as an addition, particularly prior to their practical examinations. In the postgraduate realm, those entering haematology after a period of general medical training (as is conventional) will find this extremely useful as a starter but I am afraid will soon leave it behind. However, the price of £5.95 will not be off-putting and the standard of production at this price is remarkably good.

On the whole, a delightful little book which will repay for a short-term investment to the postgraduate student who realises he has to pass on to something bigger and the undergraduate in the longer term.

Professor A.J. Bellingham
*Department of Haematology,
King's College Medical School,
Denmark Hill,
London SE5 8RX.*

Manual of Chest Medicine, John E. Stark, John M. Shneerson, Tim Higenbottam and Christopher D.R. Flower. Manuals Series. Pp. iv + 255, Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £9.95.

Manual of Chest Medicine is a compact book which the authors have written for hospital doctors in training. The book is structured to give a practical guide to diagnosis, investigation and treatment of common respiratory diseases. The authors have divided the manual into four sections, the first discussing common symptoms and signs. Breathlessness (rather than the outmoded term 'dyspnoea') is elegantly reviewed using a series of questions to highlight the different possible causes, both general and in particular in relationship to lung diseases. This questioning approach is an excellent reminder to the reader of the types of question he should be asking during the history taking. However, the brevity of the examination section I think reflects the hospital doctor's tendency to use investigations.

The second section reviews such chest orientated investiga-

tions and gives a clear account of them and their indications. The relevance of skin testing for atopy and tuberculosis are useful reviews and junior doctors are frequently confused as to their usefulness.

The major section of the book deals with common problems and sensibly deals with both specific illnesses and presenting problems such as pleural effusion. Treatment sections are precise and up to date but because of difficulties with some aspects of treatment, the final section deals with a few specific treatment problems like oxygen therapy and drug nebulisation.

The question and answer format means the book contains a large quantity of data and is therefore not always that easy to read, but is always informative and well produced with an almost complete absence of illustrations, possibly detracting from the radiological sections where line drawings rather than the expensive and difficult to produce X-rays could have helped the text. Despite this reservation, the authors have produced an excellent book for training hospital doctors in chest disease.

G.M. Cochrane
*Department of Thoracic Medicine,
New Cross Hospital,
Avonley Road,
London SE14 5ER.*

A Manual of Neonatal Intensive Care, Second Edition, N.R.C. Robertson. Pp. xiii + 369, illustrated. Edward, Arnold, London, 1986. £10.95.

Neonatal residents welcomed the first edition of this book, having long been without a pocket-size guide to the management of neonatal emergencies. Most relevant topics were covered, but in the second addition some sections have been extended and there are useful new chapters on surgical problems and the care of the severely asphyxiated infant. Another addition is the appendix on the death of a baby. I am delighted to see this important subject included but sorry that there is no mention of bereavement counselling or parent follow-up.

Intravenous feeding has revolutionized the care of sick babies. Unfortunately this chapter lacks a detailed account of how to insert a percutaneous central line (no diagrams) and there is no guidance on how best to prescribe the various solutions to minimize the risk of error.

In contrast, the chapter on resuscitation is most enjoyable. One can picture the author closing doors and windows on the labour ward and rescuing babies from baths (and ravens' beaks?!). The chapters on care in the first hour and disorders of the respiratory tract are excellent. The clear amount of respiratory physiology helps in the understanding of lung disorders encountered in neonates. Tables of drug dosages and normal biochemical values, essential to the busy neonatal resident, are clearly set out.

Neonatology is a rapidly developing speciality and it is vital to the staff of baby units to have at their finger-tips such up-to-date information as this book provides. I strongly recommend it to all those caring for sick newborn babies.

Heather Mackinnon
*Whittington Hospital,
London N1G 5NF.*

Proceedings of the 15th European Conference on Psychosomatic Research, edited by J. Hubert Lacey and D.A. Sturgeon. Pp. xii + 372, illustrated. John Libbey, London, Paris, 1986. £35.00, US\$62.00, FF450.00

Attitudes to medical practice are changing. The successes of modern medicine and technology are not decried but it is strongly argued that the conventional biomedical model from which they are derived is no longer adequate for the range of scientific challenges and social problems facing medicine today. Outside conventional practice, the recognition of the inadequacy is causing a drift towards alternative/complementary medicine. Inside conventional circles it is encouraging an interest in the biopsychosocial or holistic models which are the practical expressions of a systems approach to illness and disease. In this, the individual is seen as a part of an environmental system, acting and reacting in a continuous exchange of energy and information. Health is lost if the effort of coping and adapting outstrips the ability of the homeostasis, the body's self-regulating system, to keep the internal milieu within physiological limits. The environment is regarded as turbulent these days, changing and evolving at such an unprecedented rate that many of us are unable to escape neuroses, the abuse of substances or illnesses related to disordered psychoneuroendocrine or psychoneuroimmune function. These may include hypertension and cardiovascular disease, infections, cancer, arthritis and syndromes of aberrant and incompetent immune function.

Psychosomatic research has moved into this territory, leaving behind the older concepts of psychogenesis, emotional causation of disease or studies of mind-body relationships that do not weigh the environmental influences. It is closely concerned with relationships between psychosocial factors and physiological function in health and disease; with the advocacy of the biopsychosocial or holistic models of care; and with the integration of the technological or mechanistic approaches to disease and those derived from the behavioural sciences.

The Proceedings contain 95 papers from over 150 contributions describing contemporary research. My fear is that the development of this territory and its practical applications might stay in the hands of, say, behavioural psychologists and liaison psychiatrists without entering into the daily work of conventional doctors, nurses and therapists.

P.G.F. Nixon
*Charing Cross Hospital (Fulham),
Fulham Palace Road,
Hammersmith,
London W6 8RF.*

Recent Advances in Epilepsy. No. 3 edited by Timothy A. Pedley and Brian S. Meldrum. Pp. ix + 315, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £38.00.

In their foreword the authors indicate that this, the third volume in the series, is the result of the interest shown in the previous two, and also relates to the pace of change in epileptology. Like its predecessors it should attract considerable interest. The 21 contributors represent views from the USA, Canada, France, Israel, Switzerland and the UK,