illness and support all patients through the stressful time they undoubtedly experience.

P.D. Welsby
*Department of Infectious Diseases,
 City Hospital,
 Greenbank Drive,
 Edinburgh.*

An Illustrated Guide to the Knee, Alfred J. Tria and Kenneth S. Klein. Pp. 168. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, Tokyo, 1992. Hardback £34.00.

This *Illustrated Guide to the Knee* is beautifully presented. The text is easy to read and integrates extremely well with the beautifully prepared illustrations.

The preface states that the work reviews primary information for the orthopaedic resident and attending physician and as such it achieves its objectives. The basic science chapters, the chapter on physical examination and the presentation on surgical approaches, ligaments, menisci and fractures are excellent. However, I found the work deficient in its considerations of the issues of clinical management.

Accepting, however, that the book is designed to give basic primary information it achieves this objective perfectly and with its extensive bibliography offers adequate stimulation for the interested reader to pursue individual subjects in greater detail.

R.P. MacKenney
*Postgraduate Centre,
 Watford General Hospital,
 Vicarage Road,
 Watford, Hertfordshire.*

Personal Construct Psychology in Clinical Practice: Theory, Research and Applications, D.A. Winter. Pp. ix + 464, not illustrated. Routledge, London, New York, 1992. Hardback £50.00.

This book tackles theoretical analysis, research findings, and clinical application of a wide range of different problems. In Chapter 8 the author makes a laudable attempt to synthesize the personal construct theory with other theoretical perspectives.

In 1955, as had become fashionable, perhaps rather belatedly, George Kelly put forward the personal construct theory which hoped to take as its subject the whole person, rather than just taking a fragment of a person's functioning, whether physical or psychological. The author, who is the district clinical psychologist in Barnet Health Authority, tells us that he has been using personal construct psychology for 20 years in his clinical research and practice. The preface insists that this publication is not a 'cookbook'. Nevertheless, the book contains some useful guidance for those who are familiar with the general theory, and for those who are not, a summary is contained in the first chapter. Chapter 2 contains some interesting assessment techniques which might perhaps have a wider application, but personally I found the latter part of the book of greater interest. This looks at

diagnostic assessment, guidance in the use of the grid and examples of therapeutic applications. His discussion of movement and resistance to movement in therapy is one of the most interesting parts of the book, especially the difficulties that may arise when the therapeutic approach is inconsistent with the client's view of the world, or the therapist's construct differs markedly from the client's own. This must be of particular importance to those of us that spend much of our time and energy attempting to help those who come from backgrounds that differ greatly from our own, whether geographically or socially.

To conclude, the introduction informs us that this will serve as a major reference work. I feel there are probably two books here – one a reference book discussing the theory and the research and the validity of the research, and another on the clinical application. These will not necessarily appeal to the same readers.

Erica Jones
*138 Harley Street,
 London W1.*

Child Health Guide, R. West. Pp. 319, illustrated. Octopus, London, 1992. Hardback £14.95.

This is indeed an 'important' guide to areas in child health, including sections on a child's developmental and emotional needs, the major body systems and what may go wrong with them, accident prevention and lastly an extremely useful glossary of terms applicable to common paediatric health problems.

Although the book is intended primarily for parents and carers – and in this respect it is very user-friendly for the non-professional – I think it would be an invaluable aid in nursery and infants schools, where teachers or helpers may be faced with children who have unfamiliar diagnoses attached to them. Health visitors also may find it useful as a brief guide to situations they encounter regularly.

The chapter dealing with first aid expertly spells out the essential basic steps in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and is certain to encourage good practice. It should enable interested readers to feel sufficiently confident to initiate resuscitation if the need arises.

I also found the suggestion of a regular 'safety audit' of a household or establishment to have great merit, with the aim of reducing childhood accidents.

Criticisms are few. No mention is made of recent guidelines for parents on how to reduce the risks of sudden death in infancy, nor is there any reference to the hazards of overheating the baby, though hypothermia gets a mention. The paragraph on tracheo-oesophageal fistula includes the statement that the baby will splutter when given a first feed. Possibly some mention should be made of warning signs which may hopefully alert the carer to withhold the first feed and to seek a diagnosis. Genetic conditions are mentioned briefly but without any discussion of recurrence risks or appropriate counselling, e.g. muscular dystrophy, achondroplasia. The section on jaundice in the young infant misses the opportunity to stress to parents and professionals the needs for urgent referral for investigation in the case of possible obstructive jaundice associated with biliary atresia, since the prognosis is dependent upon surgery within the first 10