a description of the main illness in such infants—respiratory distress syndrome, and the last 5 chapters in the book cover other respiratory illnesses, neurological problems, infections, jaundice and malformations.

There are particularly good descriptions of general aspects of neonatology such as the interpretation of perinatal statistics, the management of mother-child attachment, talking to parents, minimal handling of sick infants, resuscitation, and the care and examination of the normal fullterm newborn, though the section on infant feeding would benefit from showing some more conviction about the benefits of the new whey-based infant formulas, and a table showing the composition of different milks would also be helpful.

Dr Vulliamy's apparent unwillingness to commit himself about which type of milk to give, is typical of the book as a whole. The approach is, in general, discursive rather than didactic, and specific illness orientated rather than clinical problem orientated. While it might be said that this gives a fairer view of the subject, in this type of short book there is a risk of confusing the reader, and it also seriously reduces the book's value as a practical guide even for the management of healthy fullterm infants. The lack of problem orientation means that it is not possible to look up what to do with a grunting neonate, or a possibly infected baby—perhaps the two commonest clinical situations which confront a nurse or a resident in a maternity hospital.

Although the topics covered in the second half of the book have been 'modernised' for this 5th edition, there is still some imbalance, and an old fashioned feel about it. Neonatal hypocalcaemic fits and intracerebral birth trauma are now virtually extinct; choanal atresia, galactosaemia and epispadias are extremely rare, yet all these conditions receive much more attention than common problems such as meconium aspiration or transient tachypnoea; intraventricular haemorrhage, now the commonest cause of death in the neonatal period, is scarcely mentioned. Many of the rarer conditions mentioned would be better dealt with by much freer use of diagrams and/or tables. The author—or the editors—have some difficulty in converting from old to new units; a PO_2 of 100 mmHg is 13 kPa in some places and 14 kPa in others, and it is particularly sad to see the seriously incorrect conversion of $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz/lb to 150 ml/kg being perpetuated yet again.

These are, however, minor criticisms of what is, and, despite the presence of a plethora of new books on the care of very sick infants, will justifiably remain a popular primer for those working with newborn babies. Furthermore, at £5.95, it is a bargain.

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Phenoxybenzamine in Disorders of Micturition. Proceedings of a symposium held at the Cavendish Conference Centre, London November 1981

Edited by W. KEITH YEATES. Pp. 103, illustrated. Smith Kline and French, Welwyn Garden City, 1982. Free of charge.

Although this is a give-away from a drug company, and has all the makings of a dreary write-up of a symposium designed to puff a pharmaceutical preparation, it is, in fact, a very valuable collection of important essays on one of the most interesting aspects of modern urology. It is an oversimplification to say that because there are alpha-adrenergic receptors in the smooth muscle around the bladder neck, when the bladder neck fails to relax, it will do good to block these fibres by giving phenoxybenzamine; nevertheless, giving the drug does do good, and may put off or even avoid, an operation to cut or remove obstructing tissue at the neck of the bladder. However, alpha-receptors are not confined to the neck of the bladder, and when they are blocked, results are by no means so clear cut. In this excellent little book, the clinical uses of phenoxybenzamine are clearly set out by Marco Caine, who first used it extensively, and its physiology clearly described by McGuire and Gibbon. The message is clear, this drug has an important place in the management of a wide range of patients with different disorders of urination, but it

must be used intelligently and with proper circumspection. It is not, and never was pretended to be—"a pill for the prostate". It is, however, a very useful drug and this is an excellent guide to those who wish to use it.

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Recent Advances in Geriatric Medicine No. 2

Edited by BERNARD ISAACS. Pp. viii + 283, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh and London, 1982. £12.00.

The quality of Professor Isaacs' second 'Recent advances in Geriatric Medicine' makes one regret the 4 year interval since the first. The book is divided under two headings. The first is 'Content' which comprises assessment, treatment, gerontology, and epidemiology. The article by Professor Sleight on cardiac pacing is particularly impressive. Others cover various subjects and their pharmacology, one being hypnotics, which are surely the most paradoxical of drugs, being purely subtractive, saving no lives, yet they are among the most widely used and the most dangerous. Gerontology is well served, particularly by Professor Burnet on ageing. Psychiatry concerns us all, especially since the R.C.P. report on dementia and the materialisation of the psychogeriatrician. Dr Bergmann's description of the 'cloak of invisibility that covers the elderly depressive' rings particularly true.

The book's second heading is 'Organisation'. Professor Prinsley reports the solutions that are developing in Australia. The Multitier Geriatric Complex provides complete care on one campus—an attractive concept, but the old lunatic asylum did just that, at an unacceptable cost in isolation and human dignity. Such a unit must at all costs, relate, to the community it serves.

Professor Isaacs and Dr Horrocks present 2 almost incompatible views of the future. The 'Physician with an Interest' does geriatrics part-time—can his commitment to the elderly be any more than part-time? Dr Horrocks' geriatrician certainly is totally committed. Perhaps in the future he could develop his own 'interest'? Dr Horrocks' concept has been outstandingly successful for 12 years. The crucial point, however, is that only District General Hospital beds are capable of being used to the necessary efficiency by either type of physician. Peripheral beds cannot but be static and inefficient.

There is much to praise, and little to criticise in this controversial and stimulating book.

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Tutorials in Differential Diagnosis

By E. R. BECK, J. L. FRANCIS and R. L. SOUHAMI. 2nd edn. Pp. 299, illustrated. Pitman Books, London, 1982. £7.50.

'What is the use of a book' thought Alice 'without pictures or conversations'. Thus thought Alice in Wonderland, and the present plethora of new books has caused similar thoughts to pass through my mind on numerous occasions. Most books will, undoubtedly, end up on library shelves gathering dust, but here is an outstanding exception. It has a purpose, it is undoubtedly useful, and it will be bought. It would be of some value to undergraduate students, but its main audience must be the M.R.C.P. aspirant, for whom it is a must. It is also appealing to those who have made it, but who wish to keep up-to-date, and it is also helpful as an aide to thinking about a difficult diagnostic problem.

Its format is unusual but works well. The authors have selected signs and symptoms commonly encountered in clinical practice and discussed them with the emphasis on those features of the history and examination which are important in differential diagnosis. This

novelty of approach is a welcome change from the system orientated approach of most text-books. Successive chapters discuss common presenting symptoms such as dyspnoea, dizziness or P.U.O. The underlying physiology is described, followed by the likely causes and the investigations necessary to elucidate the diagnosis. Each chapter ends with an illustrative case history, which is followed by a detailed discussion of the differential diagnosis, and finally the answer is given. Working out the various problems is not only a valuable educational exercise, but ensures that one's ego is cut down to size. The format and the production of the book is excellent. The chapters are short and digestible and can be read in isolation. I only picked out a single major error in that Fig. 8-2 B should have been labelled a ventilation and not a perfusion scan, but even this had some educational value in underlining the point that a normal ventilation scan together with an abnormal perfusion scan is suggestive of pulmonary embolism.

This is an exceptionally useful book, and it is not difficult to see why it has reached a 2nd edition. It does not purport to be a comprehensive text-book but rather is a useful text in the problem orientated approach to medicine. I will certainly recommend it to my junior staff with M.R.C.P. aspirations, and indeed to anyone dealing with patients as they present in clinical practice.

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Virus Infections. Modern Concepts and Status

Edited by LLOYD C. OLSON. Microbiology series Vol. 6. Pp. x + 260, illustrated. Marcel Dekker, New York and Basel, 1982. Sw. 118.00.

Our viewpoint of viruses has changed considerably during the last 30 years, from that pioneering era when these invisible micro-organisms were mysterious elemental particles which invaded cells, killed them and were eventually eliminated. Nowadays, the host-virus inter-relationship is a fundamental interaction of 2 species of nucleic acid. The virus infection is a dynamic but controlled state of biochemical activity in which a foreign piece of nucleic acid parasitises a host cell's nucleic acid. Since the aim is survival and replication, a long-term relationship with the host may be anticipated. The biology of this equilibrium is now being studied by sophisticated techniques in cellular and molecular biology with the help of biophysics and electronic engineering.

This excellent monograph provides insight into the host-virus relationships at this academic level. This is not the book which a postgraduate would dip into for a last-minute survey of virology before a clinical examination. However, when the examinations are over and he wishes to stretch his mind, then this deeply studious and satisfying account will update him on dengue, hepatitis, RNA and DNA tumour viruses, unconventional viruses and the interferon.

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Notice

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Management of Medical Technologies and Health Care Practices: Development, Utilization, and Costs August 1 to 5, 1983.

Enrolment is suggested for health care managers and policy-makers faced with resource allocation decisions and the acquisition of medical technologies; biomedical scientists and engineers in academia and industry who are interested in the medical applications of their research; medical practitioners who would like to better understand current use of analytic tools such as cost/benefit analysis and decision analysis applied to health problems. The programme is under the chairmanship of Stan N. Finkelstein, MD, Associate Professor of Health Management at MIT. Other MIT faculties as well as faculty from Harvard Medical School, Tufts University School of Medicine, The State University of New York at Stony Brook, and the National Institutes of Health will be participating.

The Dynamics of Health Service Systems: Strategic Planning for Complex Health Organizations July 25 to 29, 1983.

This programme is intended primarily for responsible health care administrators, practitioners, and educators interested in pursuing new approaches to health system problems. This programme is under the direction of Professor Edward B. Roberts, David Sarnoff Professor of Management of Technology and chairman of the Health Management area at the MIT Sloan School. Other faculty participants will come from MIT, Tufts University School of Medicine, Michigan State University School of Medicine, Blue Cross, Hewlett-Packard, Digital Equipment Corporation, and Pugh-Roberts Association Inc.

Continuing medical education credit for both programmes is being offered by the Office of Continuing Medical Education of Tufts University School of Medicine. A detailed description of the programme is available upon request from the Director of the Summer Session, Room E19-356, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139.