Spelling errors rarely intrude, but I was unhappy to see one of Professor Ian Donald's original team mis-named as 'MacVican' on page 83.

I enjoyed this book and recommend it to ultrasound technicians, radiologists with ultrasound responsibilities, and gynaecologists. It is indeed an appropriate memorial to Dr Bill Steel, a pioneer of ultrasound, who sadly died during its preparation.

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Hypnotherapy of Pain in Children with Cancer, Josephine R. Hilgand and Samuel LeBaron. Pp. x + 250, William Kaufmann, Los Altos, California, 1984. £18.95.

This book provides a comprehensive and valuable discussion of the use of hypnosis to help children with pain and anxiety. However, a previous lack of interest in hypnosis should not deter the reader as the text reveals fascinating aspects of children's use of fantasy and coping mechanisms which have broader implications than just hypnosis.

After an introduction to hypnosis, its use in children and in the relief of pain, the book centres around work performed at Stanford Children's Hospital. It focuses particularly on a carefully constructed study of the value of hypnosis for children with malignant diseases undergoing repeated bone marrow aspirations. The design, techniques used and overall results, both successes and failures, are reported. A chapter also describes how the same techniques were adapted to other specific symptoms of distress in individual patients. One of the most exciting and helpful aspects of this book are the frequent detailed and vivid examples of individual children's hypnotic experiences, which the authors then relate to factors such as the children's ages, hypnotic potential and their ability to experience pain relief. In the course of their studies a number of children were found who had developed their own coping mechanisms, and these are also explored. An important chapter integrates many of their ideas into developing what they call 'a therapeutic atmosphere' in the oncology unit and the roles of the parents, nurses and physicians in this. The latter part of the book concentrates more on theoretical aspects and the development of hypnotic ability in children with a final chapter of suggestions for future research and potential. There is a comprehensive reference list and good index.

The work described has been concerned primarily with helping children over acute episodes of pain and it is clear that the hypnotherapists were extremely sensitive and ingenious as well as technically capable. It will be of interest to see whether others can have equal success with hypnotherapy in the same or related situations. Although the authors do not specify, my impression is that this book is aimed at those with some background in psychology. However, it is written clearly and directly, avoiding jargon, so that it can be recommended to anyone involved in the care of seriously ill children.

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In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer, edited by Alan Trounson and Carl Wood. Pp.vix + 254, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1984. £25.00.

The techniques and ethics of *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) have been the subject of much debate and scientific study since Steptoe and Edwards reported their first successful delivery of a live healthy female infant in 1978 utilizing the technique. Several hundred babies world wide have now been delivered following IVF procedures. The techniques have their genesis in the basic sciences and it is fitting that the authors acknowledge this by the extent of these chapters in the text. These give the reader a clear understanding of the mechanisms involved in producing mature, viable, fertilizable oocytes and the difficulties encountered in the assessment of human embryos and establishment of implantation.

The third section reviews some of the practical aspects involved with selection of patients for treatment and problems encountered during oocyte collection and embryo transfer. This book is not a practical manual for those wishing to set up an IVF treatment service but is a text to be read by anyone involved in this field to provide a broad and well balanced background. The book cannot be held to be comprehensive but in an area of medicine so rapidly developing this can only be expected. This book has many attributes and should be of interest to scientists, clinicians and students in the understanding of a critical new technology in human reproductive medicine.

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Manual of Paediatric Gastroenterology, John H. Tripp and David C. A. Candy. Pp.iii + 168, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1985. £8.95.

The authors and the publishers are to be complimented for introducing this new Manual series of which this is the first. It provides for the young clinician a convenient source of reference, clearly laid out and problem orientated. The 'telegraphic style' was intended to make it particularly 'usable'.

In just over 150 pages, the subject is extremely well covered and the information it provides is precise, with good sound, useful factual information, such as the prevalence of certain conditions. I particularly liked the awareness of developing countries, and putting the relevance of acute diarrhoea in perspective (p.24) 'Reduction in mortality from this cause is the major programme for WHO for the 1980s'.

Intestinal and abdominal disorders in children can often be complex and difficult to evaluate and manage. This book provides up to date information on what is and is not known. The schemes for management and investigation are particularly helpful and comprehensive. In a book of this size, it is helpful that even rare conditions such as Crohn's disease are included.