advice about a particular problem and he suggests that a good response is narrow and precise. With this in mind I looked forward to reading a book that addressed specific problems in general surgery. Instead I found yet another systematic approach only this time compressed into too small a space to be comprehensive. The book is small, to fit the pocket, and yet is spiral bound and therefore not very robust. The print is small and the tables and diagrams often complicated. The illustrative photographs, however, are very good, particularly the radiology.

The text is mostly clear and well written and the content is up to date, well argued and enjoyable reading. I enjoyed most of the sections and in particular the ones on breast and vascular disease but in both instances I was left wishing for more.

Dr Reinhold says in his preface 'Who needs another book about surgery?' I am sure there is a place for such a book but unfortunately this one falls between two stools, and it is not good value for money at £19.

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A Doctor in Saudi Arabia. G.E. Moloney. Pp. 365, illustrated. Regency Press (London & New York), London, 1985. £12.50.

Authors of articles and books about modern-day Saudi Arabia tend either to be distracted by the more sensationalist aspects of that developing country or to document simply the dry facts and figures which, although astonishing, do not give a satisfactory picture of Saudi society.

Professor Moloney has avoided these pitfalls in a most entertaining account of some of his experiences whilst working as Professor of Surgery at the University of Riyadh from 1977 to 1982. In addition he has provided a potted history of the country, a guide to cultural mores and short biographies of the kings following King Abdul Aziz, the founder of the kingdom.

The last section of the book is a potpourri of medical topics. Some of the diseases encountered in Saudi Arabia are mentioned, traditional forms of medical therapy, such as cauterization, are discussed and, finally, there are accounts of three field trips undertaken with students to different parts of the kingdom to study community health problems. This is the least satisfactory part of the book since there is too much medical detail for the lay reader but too little to be useful to the practising physician.

In one of the most fascinating sections Professor Moloney describes his travels, and attendant adventures, in many parts of the country. Such touristic glimpses of Saudi Arabia rarely find their way into print and form a valuable addition to the accounts of earlier travellers.

The book is lightly written in an almost conversational style which makes for easy reading but sometimes leads to a rather disjointed narrative. A keen clinical eye is cast on all events which are then conveyed to the reader with understanding, a lively sense of fun and not a little affection.

I believe the book will succeed best as an introduction to life in Saudi Arabia for the prospective worker in that country who will find it a useful prophylactic against inevitable culture shock.

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Hypoglycaemia in Infancy and Childhood. Albert Aynsley-Green and Gyula Soltész. Current Reviews in Paediatrics Series. Pp. vii + 165, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £18.00.

This book forms volume I of a new series of current reviews in paediatrics and covers a very important topic.

The first chapter describes the regulation of carbohydrate metabolism with the inclusion of fetal glucose homeostasis being particularly welcome. Subsequent chapters describe hypoglycaemia in the paediatric age group with emphasis on the mechanisms leading to hypoglycaemia. Neonatal hypoglycaemia and hyperinsulinism are comprehensively covered with clear discussion of areas of controversy. Hypoglycaemia due to inborn errors of metabolism is less well covered. Undue prominence is given to some extremely rare, although interesting, disorders, for example glycogen synthetase deficiency, whilst others are omitted, for example hereditary tyrosinaemia. Accelerated starvation syndrome and defects of fatty acid metabolism, which are being increasingly recognized as causes of hypoglycaemia, are clearly discussed.

The final chapter describes a practical, but thorough, approach to the diagnosis of the cause of hypoglycaemia in childhood. The references are comprehensive and the only criticism of the figures is the failure to use SI units throughout.

This volume is of interest to all paediatricians, especially those with an interest in neonatology, endocrinology or metabolic disease. It may be a little detailed for the MRCP candidate but gives welcome prominence to the importance of the basic sciences in paediatrics.

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Lymph Node Biopsy Interpretation. Edited by A.G. Stansfeld. Pp. v + 419, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £60.00.

The aim of this work is to assist general hospital histopathologists in the interpretation of lymph node biopsy specimens, and in this it is likely to succeed. The editor and