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.

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A Manual of Neonatal Intensive Care, Second Edition, N.R.C. Roberton. 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.

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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.

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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,