great deal of my future will be concerned with the care of the terminally ill I have had to formulate my own opinions. Now foremost in my mind is that the quality and not quantity of life is of the essence for the dying. This message came over loud and clear again and again from the dying surgeon who recorded his feelings as his condition worsened. Furthermore Percy’s resilience and courage as he continued to work and achieve more and more throughout his last days was a great example to us all. I was particularly touched by his reply on his death bed to the question: ‘what would you do with your life if you had your time all over again?’ to which he answered: ‘I would spend much more time talking to my patients’. This was characteristic of this humble man who was grateful for the small mercies and simple pleasures.

A.A.P Connolly, Oxford Medical Student, Green College, Woodstock Road, Oxford.

Current Orthopaedics, Vol. 1, No. 1, September 1986, edited by Robert A. Dickson. Pp. iv + 131, illustrated, Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1986. Quarterly subscriptions: institutions: £60.00 (UK), £65.00 (overseas), $95.00 (USA); individuals: £39.00 (UK), £44.50 (overseas) £67.00 (USA).

With the continuous proliferation of new journals which is taking place, the arrival of yet another new one must be carefully scrutinized. One must consider what the new journal can add to the already overcrowded field, and whether one would make time to read it. Fortunately, it is planned to produce Current Orthopaedics quarterly, so that it will not conflict too much with the monthly volumes of the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery. It is planned as a review journal, which will cover the whole range of adult and children’s orthopaedics and trauma, plus regular articles on basic science and imaging.

There is no doubt that Professor Dickson and his team have produced a first class introductory volume. A variety of important clinical problems is discussed in reasonable detail. There is an excellent ‘mini-symposium’ on the various aspects of failed joint replacements. In the basic science section Stephen Perran discusses the response of bone to injury. Other contributions by experts are a section on juvenile chronic arthritis by Dr Barbara Ansell and on flexor tendon injuries by Raoul Tubiana and Beveridge.

If this is a sample of things to come, then it is certain that this new journal will be a success. For postgraduates working for high degrees it will be mandatory for pre-examination study, and overworked consultants will find the review articles will save them a considerable amount of background reading. At the cost of £39.00 for a personal annual subscription, it should prove to be a bargain.

L Klenerman, Northwick Park Hospital, Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3UJ.


This book is aimed at those studying and practising speech therapy. Some chapters are interesting and useful and others are disappointing. The introductory chapter on phonological development is very short and therefore lacks detail and examples. Traditional methods of assessing speech production are clearly described. In trying to avoid being judgemental the authors do not emphasize the dangers of these approaches which can give a superficial and misleading picture of a child’s phonology. This could be confusing for a student of speech therapy. Following this summary of past approaches to assessment the reader is promised a guide to assessing the child’s own unique sound system. However, the assessment procedures outlined prematurely compare the child’s productions to adult targets. Practical exercises are included in the chapters on assessment. The final two chapters deal with intervention and facilitating the generalization of speech skills. The authors show imagination when giving examples of how knowledge from detailed assessments can guide therapy and enhance its effectiveness. The final chapter on generalization is particularly good. It includes interesting descriptions of studies that investigate how the treatment of certain structures can lead to different kinds of spontaneous generalization. The authors’ suggestions on how to facilitate generalization are well thought out and very practical. They will be particularly useful for students and inexperienced speech therapists.

This book should be of interest to all those assessing and treating children with phonological problems. The chapters on treatment include useful practical advice.

Rachel Gaughan Chief Speech Therapist for the Deaf Bloomsbury, Hampstead and Islington District Health Authorities, Finsbury Health Centre, Pine Street, London EC1R 0JH.


This book costs £45 for which one gets sixteen reviews by 38 authors, photoset and quite nicely bound together. Some of the reviews cover broad areas (e.g. Ramirez and colleagues on collagen), others are more specialized (e.g. Leone on metallothionein gene regulation in Menke’s disease). The general level is similar to chapters in Annual Reviews of Genetics, with substantial lists of references.

I do not doubt the quality of the sixteen individual chapters, but do question whether the whole is more or less than the sum of the parts. The book has been photoset from typescripts with different typefaces and styles of referencing. This is displeasing to the eye and, more important, means the editor had very little control over the content. The English of