extremely good overviews on otolaryngological, therapeutic upper gastrointestinal, ERCP and colonoscopy, with many up to date references, but only otolaryngological, mediastinal, upper urinary tract, pelvic arthro and laser endoscopy, approach anywhere near the needs of a textbook on technique.

It was surprising to find two chapters on veterinary surgery, which, whilst interesting, are inappropriate in a book largely aimed at medical endoscopy. Similarly interventional radiology, whilst emphasizing the non-surgical approach to clinical problems, has no connection with endoscopic surgery.

Areas omitted include flexible and rigid sigmoidoscopy, diagnostic endoscopy of the upper GI tract, laparoscopy and colposcopy, and from the practical aspects, chapters on the use of diathermy in gastrointestinal endoscopy disinfection techniques and perhaps the nursing and assistants role in endoscopic procedures would have been useful.

Overall this is a disappointing volume and its place in either surgical or endoscopic libraries is difficult to define.

R.J. Leicester,
*Department of Gastroenterology,
Royal Naval Hospital,
Haslar,
Gosport,
Hampshire PO12 2AA*

Caring for Dying People of Different Faiths, Julia Neuberger. Pp. viii + 59. The Lisa Sainsbury Foundation Series. Austen Cornish in association with the Lisa Sainsbury Foundation, London. Available direct from The Lisa Sainsbury Foundation, 8-10 Crown Hill, Croydon, Surrey CRO 1RY, 1987. £2.50 (incl. p. & p.).

This short book is a useful, albeit superficial, review of the main beliefs of the world religions, and their attitudes to death. It covers Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Christianity. Written primarily for nurses, it will be read profitably by all involved in terminal care, for whom it provides useful information on last rites for the dying, and preparation of the body for burial or cremation.

Professor Paul Turner
*Department of Clinical Pharmacology,
St Bartholomew's Hospital,
London EC1A 7BE*

Clinical Cases in Paediatrics, Nicholas P. Mann and Nicholas Rutter. Pp. iv + 168, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £8.95.

This excellent paper back book contains a series of case reports covering major paediatric problems affecting babies and children. Each report starts with presenting symptoms and main features of the examination, followed by important investigations. A section headed 'Comment' contains notes of epidemiology, differential diagnoses and management. The cases are clearly presented and there is an abundance of diagrams, tables and photographs making the layout interesting, very readable and informative.

In total 101 topics are covered concentrating on the day to day common paediatric problems encountered in a District General Hospital. Less common but nevertheless important conditions such as hypothyroidism and Klinefelter's syndrome are also included.

The book is directed mainly at medical students and for this purpose it bridges the gap between conventional text books and bedside teaching admirably. It is the sort of interesting textbook that medical students will certainly wish to turn to during those inevitable (and unavoidable) gaps in the day whilst waiting for a ward round to commence or a tutor to arrive!

The book will also, I am sure, prove to be immensely valuable to paediatric SHO's, especially those preparing for the DCH.

Highly recommended.

David Robinson
*Rush Green Hospital,
Romford,
Essex RM7 0YA*

Le Diagnostic des Cardiopathies par le Cathétérisme et l'Angiocardiographie, Francisco Fernandez C. Pp. xv + 384, illustrated. Editions Médicales Internationales, Paris, 1986. FF380.00.

This book (in French) offers the invasive cardiologist a full review of the fundamentals of haemodynamics. There are good chapters on the type of catheters presently in use, pressure measurement, dye dilution curves, oxymetry and evaluation of cardiac output by different methods. The chapters on the radiological aspect of cardiac catheterisation and volume measurements of the cardiac cavities are also useful. There are also good descriptions on the evaluation of systolic and diastolic function and coronary circulation.

The second part of the book concentrates on diagnosis and evaluation of what the French call cardiopathies which really refers to any cardiac pathology. The chapters on valvular heart disease are particularly well-written with good quality illustrations and diagrams. The chapters relating to cardiomyopathies are too simple and there are only 30 odd pages on ischaemic heart disease out of a total of 350. This, surely, does not do justice to the commonest cause of cardiac disease in the West. The final chapter on congenital heart disease is really totally inadequate.

There is hardly any mention of coronary angioplasty. One would have hoped to read a lot more about non-invasive technology, in particular echocardiography. There are far too many abbreviations which the English reader will find difficult to follow.

The author tends to be dogmatic at times and a little old-fashioned and the book could have been written some 10 or even 20 years ago. Its virtue lies in its description of the fundamentals of cardiac catheterisation and it may therefore appeal to those involved in its basic principles or those engaged in research associated with invasive techniques.

R.J. Vecht
*144 Harley Street,
London W.1*