dissatisfaction. New writings on child care are therefore welcome, especially those that give a view of special areas not well covered elsewhere. This third volume of the Progress in Child Health Series succeeds admirably in its aim of increasing communication between the many different specialties involved in paediatrics. Chapters range from pure clinical medicine, such as a review on management of congenital dislocation of the hip, to less well known areas such as the excellent review of the origin of colds in children. Particularly good are the chapters on conjoint family therapies and the Home Start scheme (why isn’t there such a scheme in all areas?). It is a pity, though, that the discussion on behavioural therapy is so heavy to read, and that on learning in medicine is better covered elsewhere. References are plenty and up to date, and the index is very comprehensive. This book must be essential reading for anyone intending to sit for one of the diplomas in child health, and would be a worthy addition to a general practitioner’s library, particularly if he is a trainer or has a special interest in paediatrics.

A.P. Lewis
Health Centre, Bodrighy, Hayle, Cornwall.


This is a very personal account of skin disease in the elderly. When so many books have multiple authorship, it is refreshing to have the lively enthusiasm of Professor Marks shining from every page. ‘Baldness is progressive as the author will testify’ and the reader can imagine the Professor; again ‘as winter sports enthusiasts will know …’ Overall, this is a splendid book. The illustrations, in particular, are almost universally excellent. The author has already defended himself in the introduction by admitting to a somewhat arbitrary decision as to the inclusion of certain disorders. However, surely it is ridiculous to include pityriasis versicolor, which is pre-eminently a condition of adolescence, acne vulgaris is mentioned no fewer than 7 times in the index.

A more serious criticism is that the book claims to be written ‘with the dermatologist in mind’. I think it would be true to say that any dermatologist might enjoy dipping into this book, but would scarcely expect to learn from it. It contains material with which every practising dermatologist should be familiar; it is physicians in the care of the elderly who would most benefit from having this on their departmental library shelves. To them I would commend it highly.

Michael Klaber
Chelmsford and Basildon Hospitals Essex.

Books Received


