position and environmental precipitants, and the place of wheezy bronchitis and acute bronchiolitis within the spectrum of asthmatic disorders. Lung function tests are dealt with, and the value of peak flow measurement is stressed.

The discussion of drug treatment is a model of clarity and simplicity, bringing easy understanding of the principles of management. The division of this section into three age groups, i.e. less than one year, one to five years, and over five years will improve the clinical approach and confidence of its readers in dealing with acutely wheezy children. The place of allergen avoidance and the very limited place for desensitization are dealt with, and alternative medicine therapies are touched upon.

The place of the family doctor in management is emphasized, especially in the chapter by Dr Jenkinson, who holds the view that most asthmatic children can be cared for by their general practitioner. The success of such care will clearly depend upon the interest and expertise of the doctor and his skill in communicating with children and their parents. He could do no better than to read this excellent book, which is highly recommended also to hospital doctors and others dealing with asthmatic children.

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The Respiratory System. Measurement in Medicine Series, Vol. 2, edited by D.G. Cramp and E.R. Casson. Pp. 395, illustrated. Croom Helm, London, Sydney, 1987. £49.50.

The generation and testing of hypotheses in the field of respiratory physiology has owed much to the use of

models and these have developed over the years from being simply representational to be of considerable complexity.

It is the realm of the respiratory physiologist to perceive these unanswered questions where modelling may be of assistance, and it is now often necessary to seek the help and advice of a mathematician to assist in the elaboration of the model. This interdisciplinary activity is difficult to achieve and there is a need for the physiologist to have a greater knowledge of the general principles underlying mathematical modelling, and for the mathematician to have a deeper insight into the problems and limitations of physiology.

This problem is addressed by this latest volume from the series 'Measurement in Medicine'. The physiologist is well served within its pages, which offers an insight into models of most types, although their mathematical development will probably tax the numeracy of most physiologists. It is not bedside reading but is nonetheless valuable, calling only for a little application on the part of the reader.

The mathematician is perhaps less well served, since the two chapters on respiratory physiology — one from Oxford and one from Edinburgh — whilst perfectly adequate, will fail to point out to the mathematician those areas where his skills might best be deployed.

The hardback volume has been produced from camera ready copy and has not been typeset, but the standard of good printing has been preserved. The editors are to be commended for tackling a difficult problem and achieving a modest success.

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Books Received

ABC of Dermatology, edited by P.K. Buxton. Pp. 91, illustrated. British Medical Journal, London, 1988. £10.95 UK, £13 abroad.

Adult Abnormal Psychology, edited by E. Miller and P.J. Cooper. Pp. x+380. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1988. £29.95.

Dilemmas in Otorhinolaryngology, edited by D.F.N. Harrison. Pp. xii+374. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1988. £45.

Genital Tract Infections in Women, edited by M.J. Hare. Pp. x+378, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1988. £50.

Learning Psychiatry through MCQ, edited by Tom Sensky. Pp. x+259. John Wiley and Sons, Chichester, West Sussex, 1988. £9.95.

Magnesium in Clinical Practice, edited by Jean Durlach. Pp. xix+360. John Libbey & Co., London, 1988. £35 UK; \$68 US; FF415.

Nerve Injury and Repair, edited by G. Lundborg. Pp. 222. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1988. £50.

Occupational Therapy in Mental Health, edited by Derek W. Scott and Noomi Katz. Pp. viii+222. Taylor and Francis, London, New York, Philadelphia, 1988.

Procedures in Practice, edited by various authors. Pp. viii+187, illustrated. British Medical Journal, London, 1988. £6.96 UK; £8.75 abroad.

Recent Advances in Otolaryngology — 6, edited by Roger Gray and John Rutlea. Pp. viii+253, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, 1988. £35.

Tuberculosis and Leprosy, edited by R.J.W. Rees. Pp. 523–820, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, 1988. £22.50.