illness into their own hands and trying to control and deal with it rather than being told what to do by a medical practitioner. While this perception may be incorrect as far as many general practitioners are concerned, it is nevertheless an important consideration in the minds of the public. This book looks at the training and educational development of complementary practitioners and, in many ways, has little to add to the information available from other texts. The final chapter, however, on the politics of complementary medicine confronts the political problems that exist between conventional and complementary medical practitioners in a very illuminating manner.

Dr Sharma does not support complementary medicine unreservedly or as an act of faith, but rather wishes to look at the growth in complementary medicine as a way of defining how we respond and deal with our own health care needs. There are many lessons within this book for those wishing to plan health care provision. It analyses what people want and feel they need in order to help themselves. As a sociologist, it looks at complementary medicine as a study model, and demonstrates some fascinating points about how we analyse and utilize the medical provisions available to us.

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Brain Blood Flow in Neurology and Psychiatry, P.J. Ell and D.C. Costa. Pp. 183, 166 illustrations. Churchill Livingstone, London, 1991. £14.95, hardback.

This handbook is part of a series which aims to present the clinical utility of nuclear medicine to doctors in general medicine/surgery and specialized disciplines. The introductory four chapters quickly provide the uninitiated with the essentials of the radiotracer technique for imaging regional cerebral blood flow (rCBF) by single photon emission computerized tomography (SPET). The major chapter on rCBF SPET imaging in disease presents data on series of patients with migraine, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, dementia, cerebrovascular disease and space occupying lesions.

Apart from being inconclusive regarding SPET's contribution to understanding pathophysiology, one is left with the impression that, although providing complementary imaging, the technique does not singly provide information that alters clinical decision-making. There is a suggestion that serial changes in rCBF SPET images parallel clinical changes in Alzheimer dementia, which may be of value in assessing response to various treatment regimes.

The last and longest chapter is a collection of 34 cases and, contrary to the preface, many of the scans are poorly labelled with right or left omitted. In an introductory book which includes basic clinical definitions, it is not unreasonable to expect arrows on the angiographic, CT, MRI, and especially SPET abnormalities.

The references are up to date but the typesetting is unusual and difficult to read.

The book is sponsored by Amersham who developed ^{99m}Tc-HMPAO (CERETEC™), the frequently mentioned radiotracer. The 24 lines on toxicity are dismissive, and although rats might survive 14,000 times the human

dose, the possibility of long-term toxicity in humans is not addressed.

A neurologist interested in the subject would probably seek a more comprehensive text, but to the non-specialized it is a readable and concise introduction to technology which hopefully will be more applicable in the future.

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ABC of Antenatal Care, G. Chamberlain. Pp. viii + 84, illustrated. BMJ, London, 1992. £9.95 UK, £12.00 overseas, paperback.

Good general practice is the heart of health care. The generalist must know something of everything – or if wise, where to find it. The general practitioner obstetrician will not be disappointed with this book.

The well-presented and illustrated text with crisp summary boxes covers normal and abnormal antenatal care in 16 readable chapters, though the A4 format is 'book-shelf unfriendly'. Traditional approaches are challenged: Is there a reason for each visit? Are unproven tests added to obsolete ones? Circulatory changes are well explained, as are tests of fetal wellbeing. There is common sense advice on medical disorders and symptom complexes, and a useful chapter on statistics.

A few grumbles. Any possible connection between CVB and limb defects is more likely to relate to gestation at testing than route. I would like to see the need for early ultrasound stressed in early pregnancy bleeding. The quoted recurrence rate for cardiac defects seems higher than current opinion, and does not stress the importance of family history. The serum iron arrow is upside down in the box for thalassaemia. 'Neonatal' for 'antenatal' appears on page 56. Bed rest, currently questioned, is perhaps overstressed for mild hypertension. In eclampsia reduced clotting is more likely than increased. Fundal height measurement (easy for GPs) is omitted in IUGR screening. Twin:twin transfusion is virtually unknown in dizygotic twin pregnancy.

These are small blemishes on a large canvas, and I would strongly recommend this book to GP obstetricians, vocational trainees and medical students.

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Recent Advances in Paediatrics 10, edited by T. David. Pp. viii + 246, 60 illustrations. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Tokyo, Melbourne, New York, 1991. £22.50, paperback.

Tim David has once again brought together in one small volume a series of short articles covering many of the growing points in paediatrics. The subject matter is, with only the occasional exception, presented in a form easily absorbed and understood by the non-specialist. Particularly useful contributions cover hypoglycaemia, the management of HIV infection and severe asthma, extra

corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), and neonatal oxygen radical disease. Thus, Aynsley-Green gives a beautifully lucid explanation of the recently recognized defects in beta-oxidation of fatty acids and the serious implications for the child and family if the diagnosis is missed and appropriate dietary strategies not instituted.

Mok's description of the management of HIV infection stresses the importance of close monitoring and the benefit of early institution of appropriate treatment including azidothymidine (AZT). The success of ECMO in the longer term support of infants with severe reversible cardiac and respiratory problems is clearly described by Brutocao and its efficacy in reversing the very high predicted mortality in such patients. The management of severe asthma in young children is helpfully reviewed by Canny, including the value of continuous nebulization of salbutamol, possibly supplemented by intermittent ipratropium. Addition of intravenous salbutamol may avert the need for positive pressure ventilation in a majority of patients heading this way, though patient fatigue is an absolute indication for ventilation.

The chapter on neonatal oxygen radical disease presents a feasible and convincing explanation for a common pathogenesis in such common conditions as retinopathy of prematurity, bronchopulmonary dysplasia and necrotizing enterocolitis.

The final chapter, a literature review, is wide ranging and very useful in listing some key references for recent developments. The book is stimulating, informative and has the potential to influence some areas of current paediatric practice. It is strongly recommended to the practising paediatrician and equally to those in training. It is well worth the very modest cost.

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Treatment of Genetic Diseases, edited by R.J. Desnick. Pp. xvi + 350, 125 illustrations. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, Tokyo, 1991. £50, hardback.

The more correct title for this book would be treatment of inherited metabolic disease. Dr Desnick is a foremost biochemical geneticist and his multi-author American book reflects this. The book deals with each topic exhaustively and has much detailed advice about treatment and monitoring – the book is an excellent introduction to anyone in paediatrics new to the field – it provides much more than a discussion of treatment: the disorders themselves are discussed in some detail so that the rationale of treatments can be better understood. Those working in metabolic paediatrics will also find the detailed advice on treatment and the discussions useful.

The book is divided into four sections: metabolic treatment which deals with dietary restriction and additives such as induction of an anabolic state using alanine in disorders like propionic acidemia; enzyme replacement therapy which has new life since the successes of glucocerebrosidase in type 1 Gaucher disease; and a section on bone marrow transplantation for various storage disorders. All these sections suffer from the repetition

found in multi-author books with chapters on related topics.

For me, the book became 'alive' in its last section – five chapters devoted to gene therapy and *in utero* therapy. As in Britain, germ-line gene therapy for humans is prohibited in America and thus the main discussion is the use of somatic gene therapy. Pros and cons of various viral vectors, for example, retroviruses, adeno-associated virus and of various target sites, for example, hepatocytes, keratinocytes and muscle cells, are discussed. These target organs are for the production of gene products not specific to those organs but which would function elsewhere in the body. Tissue specific gene therapy is given a little attention in a chapter on herpes virus as a vector with neurotropism. The difficulty in its use will be maintenance of the virus in its latent non-cytotoxic state, while the incorporated treatment-gene expresses itself. The *in utero* section gives up to date advice on maternal treatment to prevent virilization in congenital adrenal hyperplasia.

I was disappointed to see no attention paid to cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy. The book does not address ethical issues of these new challenging therapies at all. Its very factual approach will prove useful to many in this field.

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Measures of Need and Outcome for Primary Health Care, D. Wilkin, L. Hallam and M. Doggett. Pp. ix + 301, not illustrated. Oxford Medical Publications, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1991. £30, hardback.

This is a concise introduction to the concepts of 'need' and 'outcome', methods of measuring these and their application to primary health care. The authors aimed the book at 'practitioners, managers and academics working in the field of primary health care . . . who do not have the time, resources, and/or expertise to evaluate the available instruments'. The first three chapters provide the necessary theoretical background to allow the reader to understand the body of the book.

The succeeding six chapters systematically present a number of measures of function, mental illness, social support, multidimensional assessment, patient satisfaction and a few miscellaneous or disease-specific measures. Each instrument is described succinctly; its advantages and flaws summarized, and its usefulness commented on. These chapters will provide an excellent source for anybody who wishes to measure any of the topics covered but has no prior experience in the field. Most of the measures are reproduced in full and I found this the most useful aspect of the book as it allows for rapid assessment of the suitability of each measure for the purpose required. This section is well referenced and the authors urge any prospective user of any of the measures to follow up the references.

In summary, this is a succinct, well laid out book which is easy to use. It is a useful source book for anyone planning research or audit in primary health care and