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

would be a valuable addition to the library of any academic department of primary health care.

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Lipids and Renal Disease, edited by J.H. Stein and W.F. Keane. Pp. xiii + 216, not illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, Tokyo, New York, 1991. £40.00, hardback.

This volume is the latest in a series entitled Contemporary Issues in Nephrology. To general physicians it may come as a surprise that the leading cause of death in dialysis and transplant patients is cardiovascular disease. Moreover, the onset of uraemia greatly accelerates atherosclerosis in diabetics. With all the controversy surrounding intervention to prevent vascular disease in non-uraemic subjects, the poor old kidney patient with his cardiovascular problems may be the straw that will break the fundholder's back! Did you know that hypertriglyceridaemia can occasionally be cured by parathyroidectomy in transplant patients? Perhaps the two colleagues in my District General Hospital to whom I showed the cover of this book would not have scoffed quite so much at its title had they had time to extract these fascinating gems from between its covers.

The book starts with as good an epidemiological survey as I have read of the relationships between lipids and hypertension, and certainly the quality, detail and the references cited throughout this multi-author book confirm it as a 'state of the art' publication. Among the subjects covered are the nature of glomerulosclerosis, lipid abnormalities and the nephrotic syndrome and after kidney transplantation, and the role that the metabolites of arachidonic acid have in mediating inflammation in the kidney and renal blood flow. To many jobbing nephrologists, certainly to doctors outside the field of nephrology, dialysis and transplantation are probably seen as sufficient unto themselves and costly enough, but to those interested in the whole patient, the insight given by this book into the role that lipids play in their continuing health problems is invaluable. Regrettably, the therapeutic options remain limited and the author of this review believes that a combined approach with anti-thrombotic therapy as well as lipid modifying regimes might be necessary to palliate the ravages of arterial disease in the dialysis and transplant population.

Although this book is aimed at nephrologists, it would not be out of place on the shelves of cardiologists and indeed anyone with an interest in vascular disease and/or renal physiology.

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Atlas of Surgical Anatomy of the Hand, edited by E.A. Zancolli and E.P. Cozzi. Pp. xi + 745, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, New York, Melbourne, Tokyo, 1991. £295, hardback.

Undoubtedly this is the most comprehensive, as well as most beautifully illustrated, atlas of the anatomy of the hand that has yet been published. Dr Zancolli is an Argentinian orthopaedic surgeon with a special interest in hand surgery, and the late Professor Elbio Cozzi was a distinguished anatomist whose skills are demonstrated by the superb dissections which are pictured in this book.

Large though it is, the atlas is not designed to cover every aspect of hand anatomy, but concentrates on a number of areas of interest in orthopaedic, plastic and hand surgery. These include, for example, the fasciae of the hand in relation to Dupuytren's and certain congenital digital malformations, the extensor apparatus of the fingers in relation to clawing of the fingers, mallet finger and boutonnière deformity, and the anatomy and biomechanics of the flexor tendon sheaths in relation to reconstructive surgery.

The illustrations are in the form of brilliant colour photographs of dissections, many of them performed under the microscope, with accompanying clear line diagrams. The text is extensive and includes fully researched historical introductions. At its size and price, this is a text book for specialist anatomists and hand surgeons – but they will greatly prize it.

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Basic Histopathology: A colour atlas and text, 2nd Edition, edited by P.R. Wheater, A.G. Burkitt, A. Stevens and J.S. Lowe. Pp. 252, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London. 1991. £24.95, paperback.

I have enjoyed reading this book and I have found it both informative and clearly presented. This book is intended for pre-clinical, and clinical medical and dental students in practical classwork and private study. In this niche, this book is outstanding. I believe that it is most appropriate in the practical classroom setting and as such is outstanding and indeed unique.

However, it is not a comprehensive text book of pathology and the student will need to refer to other texts for more detailed accounts of diseases and disease processes. This should not deter the student from buying this book. It is reasonably priced for the student pocket and in dimensions it is easy to handle and read (188 x 245 mm, 14 mm thick). It is comparatively lightweight at 705 g. The standard of the text, photomicrographs and the general layout is excellent, and the index is full and easy to use.

The success of this book is clear and this is the second edition. This book should be brought to the attention of all undergraduate medical and dental students, and I believe it also has a useful place in postgraduate studies. Doctors studying for primary examinations in medicine, surgery, pathology and other specialities will find this book useful.

In summary, this book fulfills its aims and is thoroughly recommended.

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