illness and support all patients through the stressful time they undoubtedly experience.

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This Illustrated Guide to the Knee is beautifully presented. The text is easy to read and integrates extremely well with the beautifully prepared illustrations.

The preface states that the work reviews primary information for the orthopaedic resident and attending physician and as such it achieves its objectives. The basic science chapters, the chapter on physical examination and the presentation on surgical approaches, ligaments, menisci and fractures are excellent. However, I found the work deficient in its considerations of the issues of clinical management.

Accepting, however, that the book is designed to give basic primary information it achieves this objective perfectly and with its extensive bibliography offers adequate stimulation for the interested reader to pursue individual subjects in greater detail.

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This book tackles theoretical analysis, research findings, and clinical application of a wide range of different problems. In Chapter 8 the author makes a laudable attempt to synthesize the personal construct theory with other theoretical perspectives.

In 1955, as had become fashionable, perhaps rather belatedly, George Kelly put forward the personal construct theory which hoped to take as its subject the whole person, rather than just taking a fragment of a person’s functioning, whether physical or psychological. The author, who is the district clinical psychologist in Barnet Health Authority, tells us that he has been using personal construct psychology for 20 years in his clinical research and practice. The preface insists that this publication is not a ‘cookbook’. Nevertheless, the book contains some useful guidance for those who are familiar with the general theory, and for those who are not, a summary is contained in the first chapter. Chapter 2 contains some interesting assessment techniques which might perhaps have a wider application, but personally I found the latter part of the book of greater interest. This looks at diagnostic assessment, guidance in the use of the grid and examples of therapeutic applications. His discussion of movement and resistance to movement in therapy is one of the most interesting parts of the book, especially the difficulties that may arise when the therapeutic approach is inconsistent with the client’s view of the world, or the therapist’s construct differs markedly from the client’s own. This must be of particular importance to those of us that spend much of our time and energy attempting to help those who come from backgrounds that differ greatly from our own, whether geographically or socially.

To conclude, the introduction informs us that this will serve as a major reference work. I feel there are probably two books here – one a reference book discussing the theory and the research and the validity of the research, and another on the clinical application. This does not necessarily appeal to the same readers.

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This is indeed an ‘important’ guide to areas in child health, including sections on a child’s developmental and emotional needs, the major body systems and what may go wrong with them, accident prevention and lastly an extremely useful glossary of terms applicable to common paediatric health problems.

Although the book is intended primarily for parents and carers – and in this respect it is very user-friendly for the non-professional – I think it would be an invaluable aid in nursery and infants schools, where teachers or helpers may be faced with children who have unfamiliar diagnoses attached to them. Health visitors also may find it useful as a brief guide to situations they encounter regularly.

The chapter dealing with first aid expertly spells out the essential basic steps in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and is certain to encourage good practice. It should enable interested readers to feel sufficiently confident to initiate resuscitation if the need arises.

I also found the suggestion of a regular ‘safety audit’ of a household or establishment to have great merit, with the aim of reducing childhood accidents.

Criticisms are few. No mention is made of recent guidelines for parents on how to reduce the risks of sudden death in infancy, nor is there any reference to the hazards of overheating the baby, though hypothermia gets a mention. The paragraph on tracheo-oesophageal fistula includes the statement that the baby will splutter when given a first feed. Possibly some mention should be made of warning signs which may hopefully alert the carer to withhold the first feed and to seek a diagnosis. Genetic conditions are mentioned briefly but without any discussion of recurrence risks or appropriate counselling, e.g. muscular dystrophy, achondroplasia. The section on jaundice in the young infant misses the opportunity to stress to parents and professionals the needs for urgent referral for investigation in the case of possible obstructive jaundice associated with biliary atresia, since the prognosis is dependent upon surgery within the first 10
weeks. However, this aspect is briefly mentioned in the glossary of terms.

Finally, with reference to phenylketonuria, some of our patients are now teenage or young adults and may be contemplating pregnancy. Possibly some mention should be made of the need for strict dietary control before conception and during pregnancy.

In conclusion, the book is recommended to parents and to those who have close contact with or responsibility for young children.

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J.R. Salisbury
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This book is volume 7 in the Systemic Pathology series, now in its third edition. The 1042 pages make for a big book but at £140.00 it is relatively inexpensive for a text of this size. The book is divided into nine chapters. An introductory chapter describes immune function and is similar to many undergraduate texts, but is a nice summary nevertheless. This is followed by an informative chapter on the pathology of the thymus gland and straightforward chapters on non-neoplastic lymph node disorders. There is a good chapter on splenic pathology, a notoriously difficult area, and then a large chapter, some 350 pages, on neoplastic disorders of lymphoreticular tissue. The bulk of this is devoted to detailed descriptions of the various sub-types of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The classification used is that of the British National Lymphoma Investigation, for which the author is a proponent. Enough information is given about other classification systems but I wonder if basing a major textbook on a classification like that of the BNLI is really appropriate for the 1990s. There is a short chapter, 22 pages, on immunocytochemistry which again is a reasonable summary but there are many larger texts available. The final chapter on the lymphatic vessels is very good.

Apart from two pages of coloured plates at the start of the book, the remainder of the illustrations, and they are plentiful, are in black and white. Most are of fairly high quality although a number are of poor quality sections or are not crisply focused. There are large reference lists at the end of each chapter, with relatively few errors.

Comparison with other books is difficult as no other book has quite this range. The Histopathology of non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas by Lennert and Feller (Springer-Verlag) and the second edition of Stansfeld's Lymph Node Biopsy Interpretation (Churchill Livingstone) would be very strong competitors for some parts. Whether or not the information contained in the other chapters makes this a worthwhile buy is a decision that prospective purchasers will have to make individually. I do not feel able to recommend the book wholeheartedly.


Written for the DCH and second part of the MRCP, this handy paperback deserves to be read by examiners as well as candidates! Those bounders Stephenson and Wallace lay bare the structure and scoring system for the MRCP. They have the temerity to advise which signs to use, because the poor addled examiners can only agree 50% of the time on clubbing, percussion notes, etc. and even less often in assessing tracheal displacement.

The relative likelihood of conditions appearing in the exam, and the commensurate amount of knowledge required, is considered. Their approach gives a new meaning to the appliance of science, and is above the traditional and often suicidal 'spotting questions' approach. In an informal, chatty prose, the essentials of history taking in specific conditions, interpretation of signs, and a bedside discussion of investigations and treatment are outlined. Discussion points are included, providing intelligent suggestions and ideas of the questions the candidate should be prepared for in the clinical and oral. Syndromes which commonly appear in exams are reviewed.

There is little to criticize, and if they were not competitive exams, this book would be used more widely, I think the College wine stocks could follow the same path as the business recession.

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FELLOWSHIP OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICINE

Grants for Research – 1993

The Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine is offering grants for travel, or towards the cost of equipment, for young graduates entering careers in clinical research. Successful applicants will be expected to submit reports of their research for publication in the Postgraduate Medical Journal.

Further information may be obtained from Mrs J.M. Coops, Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine, 6 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB (Tel: 071-935 5556), to whom applications should be made, giving a concise summary of the research project, the sum requested and a curriculum vitae of the applicant.

Closing date for applications: 30 August 1993