ban on the use of antiemetics or anti diarrhoeals in such children.

Many young doctors and medical students using this book will proceed into general practice and I am slightly disturbed by some of the recommendations made. Perhaps there could have been fuller discussion of home prepared rehydration fluids for paediatric gastroenteritis (surely no longer recommended!), the suggestion that lack of a response to soya milk might suggest immunodeficiency (surely it suggests soya intolerance!), and there is a lack of discussion of what investigations are now indicated for young children with urinary tract infections, and the length of treatment.

For the young hospital doctor and for nurses this book will be a useful quick reference text but I doubt if anyone will read it from cover to cover. The text is a useful review but anyone wishing to really know about a patient under their care with infection will need to move on to a larger textbook. I believe it has little to offer anyone beyond the preregistration year.

Finally there are a few points with which I would take serious issue:

(1) Throat swabbing and neck radiographs are recommended in croup. I would find neither helpful and either could be catastrophic if epiglottitis is present.

(2) In the management of croup I have never seen convincing evidence that humidification is helpful and worry about advice given to use hot showers or steam kettles. The potential for accidents is alarming.

(3) Although recommended in the national formulary, I would argue against the use of topical antibiotics for staphylococcal impetigo.

(4) Would we recommend rifampicin

prophylaxis for haemophilus meningitis even if there are no other children under 5 years of age in the family?

(5) Should it not be emphasised that all patients with Stevens-Johnson syndrome have adequate analgesia?

(6) Many of us recommend a graded exercise programme as a way to combat chronic fatigue. The authors state that exercise should be avoided. They present no evidence for this. They also suggest that the patient should change lifestyle to accommodate their symptoms. This is surely another area of controversy that is lightly passed over. Many of us would feel that the most important management of children with chronic fatigue is to get them back to school.

In summary this is a useful textbook but one that has not quite conquered all the difficulties posed by a review of such a vast area of medicine. I would recommend it to medical students and nurses with qualifications but would hope that my junior staff were stimulated to sit in the library reading the relevant sections in the books by Christie, or Mandell, Douglas and Bennett.

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Motor Development in Early and Later Childhood: Longitudinal Approaches.

Edited by A Kalverboer, B Hopkins, and R Geouze. (Pp 385; £55 hardback.) Cambridge University Press, 1993. ISBN 0-521-40101-1.

Motor control and motor development are fundamental aspects of individual adaptive

behaviour. This volume is the edited proceedings of a workshop convened by the European Science Foundations Network on longitudinal studies and serially reviews the biological bases of motor development, acquisition of skills, the relationship of motor development and handicap and relevant methodological considerations.

From the paediatrician's perspective there are valid and well referenced reviews of motor development and these are linked with what is known from investigation of neuropathology in infancy. This is linked with a discussion on possible risk factors for abnormal motor development and thereafter with a description of the adaptive processes which accompany motor deficiencies in childhood and later life.

The contributors to this volume come from a range of backgrounds and disciplines and although the book is tightly edited, the disparities of background and experience show through in many of the chapters. Essentially therefore, the paediatrician is presented with an overview of relevant developmental theory and practice in the motor field but without necessarily being convinced of its clinical relevance and applicability. There are, for example, only two passing references to physical therapy and its use in the whole volume.

As an overview this book is disappointing for clinicians and probably too lightweight for researchers. Like so many conference proceedings publications, it would be of most value as an *aide memoire* to those who took part in the conferences from which it is derived.

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