Three psychologists show that every personal experience of growing up is different, not least its timing. As the professionals 'go triangular' (dealing directly with the young person as well as the parents), committed and expert parents have the difficult task of receding into the background. Obtaining further education and employment can be dauntingly difficult. On the other hand, several contributors remind us that reaching adult status may mean increasing awareness of deterioration and early death.

These are not circumstances for basing decisions rigidly on calendar age, in spite of the legal autonomy conferred abruptly at the age of sixteen. Specific positive strategies include interdisciplinary clinics, adolescent and/or young adult special facilities, regional centres and personal advocates. Purchasers and providers have to answer the criticism that low-technology, low-profile health care is too often 'distributed grudgingly'.

This is just a selection of the issues that this book covers, of which every physician should be aware and informed. The point is that the contributors tacitly invite their readers to draw the most appropriate practical and ethical conclusions from the evidence presented. The details of these will and should vary, according to individual circumstance and the deployment of national and local services. Buy the book and read it this way, take account of the guidelines and keep it for reference – young people deserve no less, and the reward will more than justify the effort.

References

- 1 *The young disabled adult*. Report of a working party. London: Royal College of Physicians, 1986.
- 2 Edwards FC, Warren MD. *Health services for adults with physical disabilities*. London: Royal College of Physicians, 1990.

JOHN HARRISON
Research Co-ordinator
Implementing a Charter for
Disabled People Using Hospitals

Treatment of primary glomerulonephritis. Edited by Claudio Ponticelli and Richard Glassock. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1997. 260pp. £59.50.

Although technically a multi-author work, every one of the eight chapters in this volume is written by one or other of the editors, either alone or with a co-author. The resulting uniformity of treatment makes it easy to find one's way around without reference to the index. The book starts with two general chapters, the first of which is devoted to symptomatic therapy. This covers the management of oedema, hypertension, hyperlipidaemia, and other clinical problems which may be found in a range of glomerular disease. The second chapter reviews immunosuppressive therapy, covering glucocorticoids and immunomodulating agents. The remaining chapters deal with specific disease entities, namely minimal change, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, membranous nephropathy, IgA disease, mesangiocapillary glomerulonephritis and crescentic glomerulonephritis. These specific disease chapters follow a common format which consists of a brief introduction, an account of the natural history, the factors that influence prognosis, and then a review of the evidence supporting the specific treatments in the various diseases. Each chapter concludes with some practical recommendations for treatment, both for the entity in general and, where relevant, for specific subsets such as the elderly or those with impaired renal function.

This book provides a valuable summary of the current state of knowledge concerning the treatment of immunologically mediated disease. The reviews of the various studies of treatment in the individual conditions are comprehensive, critical and up to date; there are many references from 1995 and 1996, and agents which are not yet in clinical use in these diseases, such as rapamycin

(surolimus) and deoxyspergialin, are covered. The lack of good evidence supporting the efficacy of many of the interventions that have been tried for these diseases is pointed out. Whilst acknowledging this background, the guidelines produced by the authors will be of great help to anyone involved in the management of these diseases. I imagine that all practising nephrologists would benefit from having ready access to a copy of this book.

DAVID B G OLIVEIRA
Professor of Renal Medicine
St George's Hospital
Medical School, London

Books received

We thank the authors and publishers who have sent these books and list them in acknowledgment of their courtesy. Those received that are most likely to interest readers of the Journal will be reviewed when space permits.

Cell therapy – stem cell transplantation, gene therapy, and cellular immunotherapy. Edited by George Morstyn and William Sheridan. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1996. 617pp. £70.00.

Tumour immunology – immunotherapy and cancer vaccines. Edited by A G Dalgleish and M Browning. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1996. 353pp. £50.00.

Preventive diplomacy: stopping wars before they start. Edited by Kevin M Cahill. BasicBooks (with the Center for International Health and Cooperation), London, 1996. 370pp. \$25.00.

The women of Royaumont: a Scottish women's hospital on the western front. By Eileen Crofton. Tuckwell Press Ltd, East Lothian, 1997. 368pp. £17.99.

Method in madness: case studies in cognitive neuropsychiatry. Edited by Peter W Halligan and John C Marshall. Psychology Press, Hove, 1996. 310pp. £29.95.

Urinary stones: diagnosis, treatment and prevention of recurrence. Edited by Albrecht Hesse, Hans-Göran Tiselius and Andrea Jähnen. Karger, London, 1994. 208pp. \$34.

Understanding medical research – a practitioner's guide. By Jane L Garb. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Massachusetts, 1996. 208pp. £19.95.