

There are a few criticisms and omissions. A nomogram for deriving surface area should be included if doses are based on body surface area. Drugs are often referred to only by their proprietary names; these may be meaningless in other countries. Misprints are few: nmol for mmol on pages 54 and 55, synitial for syncytial on page 47.

Though the material is well selected, the clinical picture and management of "toddler diarrhoea" should have been included. It is sad that the authors did not take the opportunity to perpetuate the quote made famous by Douglas Gairdner of the "refined" mother describing a stool passed by her constipated son as "enormous, just like a working man's, doctor." Also, the section on nocturnal enuresis would have been improved by including the "small bladder syndrome" and its importance in the management of the enuretic child with urgency, frequency, and daytime wetting. Thyrotoxicosis should be added to the list of causes of tall stature.

Lastly, a serious omission, which modifies somewhat my endorsement of Professor John Davis's prefatorial encomium, is the lack of a section on the problems of immigrant children and their families. In my view a British textbook of paediatrics that does not include a discussion of the common conditions and cultural and social attitudes of the various immigrant groups in the United Kingdom is incomplete. Nevertheless, Cambridge is fortunate in having two such gifted and clear-minded teachers.

J A BLACK

## Personal approach to orthopaedics

*Clinical Disorders of the Shoulder*. Lipmann Kessel (Pp 182; £20.) Churchill Livingstone. 1982.

Lipmann Kessel has had more than 30 years' clinical experience of the shoulder joint, much of it obtained at a special shoulder clinic at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. He is, therefore, an authority and has written a personal account that is clear and simple to follow. He deals first with clinical anatomy and the examination of the shoulder joint and then with shoulder pain and fractures and dislocations of the shoulder joint, and he ends up with sections on the stiff shoulder and rehabilitation of the shoulder joint.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, which contains a multitude of ideas and thoughts about the shoulder, ranging from a simple and helpful explanation of the applied anatomy of the shoulder joint, through to the detailed clinical assessment of the shoulder joint, which is the main contribution of the book. The author gives the helpful hints and tips that can be based only on a lifetime's experience. I found advice on how to obtain special radiographic views of the shoulder joint particularly helpful. As with any book, however, there are parts that one would like to be different. I would have liked further discussion on cervical spondylosis and its frequent association with shoulder pain, more detail on different types of shoulder replacement, expansion of the sections on rehabilitation, and something on the bio-mechanics of the shoulder joint.

These points are not really relevant, however, because this is a personal account of an experienced surgeon's approach to the clinical assessment of the shoulder joint. Indeed, the role of replacement is played down and Professor Kessel's contribution is mentioned only briefly. The book stimulated and fascinated me. There is a place for this book on every orthopaedic surgeon's shelf; but general practitioners would also benefit from reading it, as would all doctors who are treating patients with problems related to the shoulder joint—indeed, I would recommend it to paraclinical colleagues as well. The publishers are to be commended on the high standard of production, particularly of the clinical photographs and radiographs.

Professor Kessel should be congratulated on making a fine

contribution to the published works on orthopaedics. It is a particular pleasure to read a book based on one man's experience accumulated over 30 years.

S P F HUGHES

## In brief

Books and reviews about alcoholism continue to pour off the presses at an alarming rate, many of them uninspired and repetitive. Not so Max Glatt's *Alcoholism* (Hodder and Stoughton, £2.95), which first appeared in 1969 and has now been extensively rewritten to accommodate the new knowledge of the last dozen years. An attractive paperback of 500-odd pages, it contains pretty well everything the professional needs to know or will be asked, though whether he will be able to provide a satisfactory answer is quite another matter. It is a hard, if rewarding, read and not unreservedly recommended for the layman, for whom it seems to be intended. Its three sections deal comprehensively with definitions and theories of alcoholism, the harm it causes, and the available treatments.

The latest issue of the *British Medical Bulletin* is devoted to "Alcohol and Disease" (Churchill Livingstone, £9.50). Edited by Dame Sheila Sherlock, it is a useful and up-to-date survey by the acknowledged experts, though most of it has been said already in other publications. Besides the physical effects of alcohol, epidemiological, economic, metabolic, and therapeutic consequences of alcoholism are succinctly discussed.

## Corrections

### Pocket books on chest disease

The author of Volume 1 of *Topics in Respiratory Medicine*, "Airways Obstruction," is Duncan M Geddes, not Douglas M Geddes as stated in the review of 13 February, p 500.

### Mental shock or bodily injury?

We regret that in the review of *Post-Traumatic Neurosis: from Railway Spine to the Whiplash* by Michael R Trimble (27 February, p 653) the name of the publishers, John Wiley and Sons, was omitted.

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