

which has allowed this country to hold its head high at international gatherings and the quality of their work is reflected by the thoughtfulness of their writing. Such Archbold's chapter on the setting up of programmes will be very valuable to any authority wishing to consider such developments whilst Sarah Sheppard's difficult technical descriptions are clear and easy to read. The chapters on rehabilitation and monitoring are particularly important and the surgeons, Gibbin and O'Donoghue, also write a valuable chapter on the medical aspects. Barry McCormick, who is the senior editor, is recognized as a leader in the field of assessment and he tackles the most controversial problem, that of deciding which small child might benefit in a straightforward and clear manner. Hazel Lloyd's contribution on the role played by the family is enhanced by her case histories and should be read by and discussed with the parents of profoundly deaf children.

Altogether this book should be bought by everyone with an interest in the management of the severely deaf and many parents would also find great benefit in reading it.

ELLIS DOVEK

GLUE EAR IN CHILDHOOD: OTITIS MEDIA WITH EFFUSION IN CHILDREN

Richard Maw. Cambridge University Press. 1995. ISBN 1898683034. Price £29.95 (US\$49.95) (HB). pp 136.

An interviewer lacking inspiration will sometimes fall back on the challenging question of what recent publication has truly altered the candidate's clinical practice. A personal response would include the Glasgow work on assessing tympanoplasty benefit, the Copenhagen studies on surgery of Menière's Disease and (by no means last on this list) the literary output from Bristol on OME.

This monograph is based on research which started in 1977 and has produced 36 publications between 1979–1994! The text opens with a literature review, covering such topics as incidence, risk factors, immunology, atopy based on approximately 300 references, some published as recently as last year. Subsequent chapters consider that influence of nasopharyngeal and adenoid disease, complications of OME and, more importantly, of its treatment by grommet insertion. The many graphs and tables seem daunting but do make this an authoritative work. The text is very readable with paragraphs nicely headed for the more casual browser and could still surprise this (well-read?) otologist. We learn that:

Children with mucoviscidosis are not at increased risk of OME! Tympanic retraction could be due to an abnormally patent Eustachian tube! Hearing aid usage in OME has not been evaluated in the literature! The Surgeon, the audiologist, the paediatrician will find much of interest here. Our political masters who dismiss surgery of OME as merely 'ineffective' and trusts rationing such treatment might equally be inspired to read on.

This is a remarkable work showing what can be

achieved by an enthusiast prepared to recruit sufficient numbers into properly designed trials and it is likely to remain for many years the definitive text on this subject.

A nicely printed hardback book published at a price that would purchase sufficient grommets for only five children (if you treat both ears!) is a sound investment from any budget, if it rationalizes the decision to operate.

LIAM M FLOOD

THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE TO PAEDIATRIC AUDIOLOGY

Barry McCormick. Cambridge University Press. 1995. ISBN 0521459885. Price £14.95 (US\$29.95) (PB).

This book provides essential information for any medical practitioner involved in the care of children with hearing impairment. It is a book for the non-specialist which introduces the subject to the novice, and yet gives sufficient detailed information to enable those engaged in intermediate audiology clinics to perform to national standards.

The chapters are well written, with clear and concise presentation of information, the text being scientifically accurate without unexplained technical jargon. Each chapter deals with a specific aspect of testing or audiological management. All standard hearing test techniques are described. Management issues focus on otitis media with effusion, hearing aids and tactics for sensorineural hearing loss and cochlear implants.

There is one important omission from this otherwise excellent book. There is no reference to communication disorders, either those arising from hearing impairment, or those which may be confused with hearing impairment. This is unfortunate as those practitioners requiring audiological information also require an understanding of speech development, and the impact of hearing impairment upon communication.

S SNASHALL

COLOUR ATLAS OF ENT DIAGNOSIS

Tony R Bull. Times Mirror International Publishers. 1995. ISBN 0723422710. Price £18.95.

The third edition of Mr Bull's excellent colour atlas appears eight years after the previous edition. The format and the majority of the clinical photographs remain largely unchanged, however it is updated to include reference to advances in CT & MRI scanning, developments in fibroptic techniques and endoscopic sinus surgery, as well as fine needle aspiration cytology. The layout makes for easy and stimulating reference for the intended readership of medical students and casualty officers, as well as for those in the early stages of their otolaryngological careers. The standard of photography is for the most part excellent, although some might find one or two of the photographs of the tympanic membrane a little difficult to interpret. The text is kept appropriately simple, with many useful clinical pearls of wisdom. I have found the slide library