community-based services for children. In the decade since, the problem has been corrected in a number of ways; this is the third of a series of books of essays which have made a significant contribution to awareness of the scope and content of the health care of children.

As with the earlier volumes, the diversity of this new collection is attractive for two reasons. Firstly, because it illustrates the combination—or interaction—of epidemiological, clinical and organisational matters that are all a part of good practice. Secondly, because this approach makes it possible to set appraisals of the present need for well-established activities (for example, screening for congenital dislocation of the hip or immunisation policies) alongside topics of more recent concern or interest. In this volume, six essays are about what might loosely be called the psycho-social needs of children and reflect a growing interest in questions of this kind.

This is not a text book nor do the essays attempt a formal review of the literature on a particular topic. Each of the 18 chapters is short, and all are by people who know their business, so that the book as a whole contributes to an informed view of the present agenda of child health practice. By and large the chapters are well referenced and offer a way into the literature of different topics. Like its predecessors, this collection will be of value to all with a concern for child health, whether as practitioners or as managers. Its editor is to be commended not simply for a good idea but for the standard that the series has achieved thus far.

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This book is the result of collaboration between the IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer) and the UICC (International Union Against Cancer). The first half of the book presents the efforts of the IARC working group on the evaluation of cervical cancer screening programmes. Eleven chapters describe studies of screening programmes as conducted in eight countries over a period of 20 years. The results of these studies are summarised by the working group and the conclusions that may be drawn from the results presented with their implications for formulating screening policy.

The second half of the book presents the content of a UICC Workshop on screening for cancer of the cervix held in Lyon November 1984. A series of 10 papers describe aspects of screening programme organisation including a chapter referring to the particular requirements for programmes in developing countries. The final two chapters of the section refer to screening for cancer of the endometrium and cancer of the ovary.

The 300 pages which comprise this publication are an excellent source of information and reference on both the epidemiological basis for evaluation of screening policies and the organisational requirements for successful programmes. The book is, therefore, worthy of priority attention of epidemiologists and those charged with advising on and implementing effective screening programmes. For the former group the book will both stimulate and satisfy; for the latter group it may in turn both stimulate and frustrate since the already accepted prerequisites of successful screening programmes are once more described, and the reasons for deficiencies in achievement underlined.

In conclusion, this volume is an excellent investment for both academic and service departments of Community Medicine and for individuals with a particular responsibility for or interest in screening for cancer of the uterine cervix.

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When a new book is presented we should ask ourselves why it has been written and what new knowledge or new approach to the subject is being offered. In the preface we are clearly told that this volume is intended for medical students and health professionals who should be looking ahead to the new situations and problems of the 21st Century. It avowedly raises questions that are left unanswered and is a personal statement of priorities. It covers an enormous amount of ground and seeks to address the big issues of health, from infectious killers in the developing world to pollution, war and murder in the developed.

The book starts with a useful definition of community health and goes on to a very long chapter on epidemiology, which I felt was just another statement of old ground, and which would be better understood by looking at a well tried text. One was frequently told to “consult a larger textbook” —and