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.

Andrew Boddy
Social Paediatric and Obstetric Research Unit
University of Glasgow


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 describes 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.

Christine Hopton
Community Services
Nottingham Health Authority


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
the brief study of the life table, for instance, might have been better handled by being either expanded or firmly referred. I found some of the references to the developing world somewhat arbitrary, with huge topics referred to and dismissed in a sentence. Obviously in a book of this type one does not expect detail—yet if an issue is important enough to be raised it is logical to expect some sort of comment. For example, onchocerciasis is referred to once as a disease of great importance, which is difficult to control—and then is not referred to again, even as a cause of blindness in the developing countries in a later section.

The most interesting chapters, I found, were the more philosophical ones at the end of the book, particularly on the more ethical issues. It is worth reading—but as the author says, it is not a study guide to pass exams. It is an excellent guide to further reading.

PETER COX
Department of Community Medicine
Leeds University


This book marks an award to Dr. Alice Stewart from the Right Livelihood Fund on her 80th birthday. Dr. Stewart has been an outstanding investigator in social medicine. She was a colleague of two other pioneers, Charles Fletcher at the Pneumoconiosis Unit at Cardiff, and then of John Ryle at Oxford, where she remained pursuing her well-known investigations into radiation exposure and the incidence of leukaemia in children. The book consists mainly of reprints of Dr. Stewart's important papers. These are introduced and linked by the discussion of some personal biographical details (particularly in respect of changes early in her career from clinical medicine into social medicine) and of the developing investigative and analytic sophistication adopted in the studies. Three features stand out; the thoroughness and rigour with which Dr. Stewart carried out her research, the personal strength and confidence she had to infer and then stand by conclusions from her work that were contrary to contemporary belief, and the enduring importance of her work. Her identification of potential harm from pre-natal x-ray exposure to the foetus has modified antenatal care throughout the world, and her work on dose-response patterns and the danger of low dose radiation has changed thinking in this field. The book is not only a tribute to Dr. Stewart, it is also an outstanding example of the benefits to mankind that can come from epidemiological research.

MICHAEL WARREN.
Canterbury, Kent.

Workshop on The Role of Women in Health Sciences and Health Care in Developing Countries, Feb 1–5, 1989.

COSTED, in collaboration with Kovalevskia Foundation, the Tamil Nadu Women Doctors Association and others, is planning to conduct a five-day workshop on Feb 1–5, 1989, in Madras on the above topic. The proceedings will be published in book form.

The workshop will discuss the present status of health science and health care programmes and the training of health scientists in developing countries, with special reference to constraints which hamper progress in the training of women for these programmes, and factors which may facilitate their active role in the programmes. The workshop participation will be restricted to women health scientists, five from India, ten from developing countries in Asia, five from Western countries and ten young scientists from India as observers.

COSTED will sponsor the travel of five scientists from Asia, and the Kovalevskia Foundation, two from Vietnam and one from Kampuchia.

Those interested in taking part in this workshop are requested to write to Prof CV Ramakrishnan, Hon Programme Director, COSTED, Gandhi Mandap Road, Guindy, Madras–600 025, India, along with their CV giving a short summary of their role in training health scientists and implementation of health programmes.

International Conference on Community Nursing, 16–17 March 1989, ’s Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands

CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Conference on Community Nursing has two aims. First an international exchange of information regarding home-care services. Second, to present the findings of research concerning a variety of topics in community nursing.

Those wishing to present results of their research regarding Community Nursing at the conference are invited to send title and abstract (one page) of their papers to the Netherlands Institute of Primary Health Care. For information, please contact: The Netherlands Institute of Primary Health Care, Ada Kerkstra, PhD, PO Box 1568, 3500 BN Utrecht, The Netherlands. Tel:- 3130319946.