Book Review

Pediatric review : MCQ's in pediatrics by Meharban Singh pp 238. CBS Publishers and Distributors Delhi, Price Rs. 37-50.

There is an increasing trend to introduce MCQ in various examinations in India. This book is therefore a welcome addition. It is divided into two parts—multiple correct responses in part 1 and single correct response in part 2. The questions have been selected with great care, so that they educate while testing knowledge at the same time. In part I, answers with explanations are conveniently given overleaf, while in part 2 the answers are given at the end of each section, but without any explanations.

Most of the questions and answers are unambiguous. However, answers to some questions may not be universally acceptable e.g. in question 4-11 the statement that in Down syndrome bone age is more retarded than height age is not correct. In question 2-43 laxatives given to the mother being an absolute contraindication for breast feeding is scored as correct. Question 2-56 should be in the

single response category as it is a single response question. Breast-fed babies are more predisposed to develop jaundice than the artificially fed' and this statement should have been scored as correct. In true hermaphrodites (question 2-216) genetic sex is most commonly XX and should be given as a correct response. In question 2-217 since clomiphene can result in neural tube defects, as mentioned by the author in the text, E should be scored as a correct response. Similarly there are other minor errors. The correctness of the responses should be checked with greater care in future editions.

I would have liked that the single response answers should also contain an explanatory text, especially as some of the answers are controversial and do require a supporting statement. For example question 4-11, 6-20 and 6-49.

However, overall this book is an excellent buy for its reasonable price and I would recommend it strongly for all those interested in testing and improving their knowledge of pediatrics.

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Addendum

Article '*Perinatal mortality in Vellore Part I : A study of 21,585 infants*' by Dr. Malati A. Jadhav and Lalana G. Christopher, 53 : 3 : 347-352, 1986, page 348 in Table I the total number of births *should read* as 21,585 and total number of low birth *should read* as 21,076.