Weaknesses:
Lack of detail about any one

Strengths:
Breadth of topics; com-

Overall rating:
$20. ISBN 0-9681801-0-8

Gideon Koren. 153 pp. The Kid In Us Publica-

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The Children of Neverland:
The Silent Human Disaster

Gideon Koren. 153 pp. The Kid In Us Publica-
tions, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto. 1997.
$20. ISBN 0-9681801-0-8

Overall rating: Very good
Strengths: Breadth of topics; com-
pelling writing style
Weaknesses: Lack of detail about any one subject, need for more care-
ful editing

Thousands of children born each year will never reach their full potential, trapped for life in “Never-
land.” In Koren’s words, the book is a “human manifesto . . . not a scientific document” and on that level it suc-
ceds.

Using anecdotes, case histories and statistics suitable for the lay reader, Koren describes the many threats to children, arguing that most of these threats are preventable and therefore doubly tragic. Individual chapters address environmental expo-
sures, embroyological toxins, medical interventions, poverty, war and ethnic conflict, teenage pregnancy, suicide, poisoning and politics. He cautions us, however, not to draw premature conclusions about risks. He advocates more research involving children as being essential to the prevention of unnecessary abortions and to the im-
provement of our prevention strategies. He challenges our assumptions about children’s ability to make in-
formed decisions, persuasively contrasting them against the major re-

Overall, this book does contain useful information. The final critics, 1st-year residents who have read it, state that it is good.

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Management of Injuries in Children

John F.T. Glasgow, H. Kerr Graham. 440 pp. Il-
lust. BMJ Publishing Group. 1997. Distributed in
Canada by the CMA. $102.95 ($85.95, mem-

Overall rating: Good
Strengths: Reads well; many useful clinical pearls
Weaknesses: Some imbalance in coverage of topics; algorithms would be useful
Audience: Emergency physicians, pedi-
tricians, family physicians who work in the emergency department; others who care for injured children

Physicians who provide acute care to injured children are the inten-
ded audience for this book. Written by John Glasgow and H.K. Gra-
ham from Sheffield and Ulster respectively, the book has a distinctly
British flair. (For instance, the au-

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school councils, health planners, health sciences students and people registering for pregnancy and birthing classes. It may be of partic-
ular value as a course book for senior elementary or early high school health classes. Any of us involved in
the care of children, however, can affor-
to be reminded from time to time that while the lives of children are more secure than they were in
Charles Dickens’ time, there is still much to do.

North Americans might stumble over terms such as paracetamol and pethi-
This book is distinctly different from other texts on the subject, which at times resemble expanded “how-to” manuals. It is more philosophical in tone; much of the text reflects the considerable experience of the authors in the prevention and treatment of childhood injury. Chapters include epidemiology of childhood injury, child abuse and how to prepare medicolegal reports.

One strength is the authors’ thoughtful consideration of many basic issues critical to the management of injury among children. There is in-depth discussion of how adults and children differ, including developmental issues that are key determinants of the injury patterns among children.

The text could benefit from algorithms, such as the initial management of children who have sustained major trauma. There is much emphasis on orthopedics, while other topics, such as blunt abdominal trauma, are considered in less depth. Although the importance of analgesia is described, there is fairly minimal coverage of the available options, especially regional blocks, which are increasingly being used for analgesia of children in the emergency department.

Overall the book reads very well, and I enjoyed making my way through it. There are many useful clinical pearls; colour illustrations add to the easy flow, notably with respect to issues such as the aging of bruises and unique patterns of soft tissue injury; and tables are clear and concise. This text would be useful for trainees in emergency medicine, pediatrics and family medicine, notably for explaining how probable injury patterns, produced by equivalent patterns, will differ in children and adults.

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