See how they grow-monitoring child growth for appropriate health care in developing countries.

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Abstract: Readers who have benefited from the stimulating contact with David Morley and his associates at the Department of Tropical Child Health in London will welcome this distillate of their ideas and teaching. The essence of the book is an exposition of the value of consecutive weight measurements, graphically displayed on a growth chart.
application by lowly trained auxiliaries and part-time workers in rural child health. With this, to make rather a mixed cocktail at times, are a number of other topics less related to growth and nutrition, e.g. modern ideas on oral rehydration.

The Introduction expounds a philosophy of child health care and highlights the growth chart as a cheap and effective tool in primary care. There is a plea for community involvement and an attack on teaching in "disease palaces". The design and use of the growth chart is described with an explanation of centiles [a good deal of the discussion about immunization seems irrelevant at this point]. A straightforward and very practical chapter on Weighing children is followed by a convincing justification for home records and a plea for home visiting. The next section presents case studies of growth curves in children with malnutrition and various infections, together with a kind of "relevant (nutrition) teaching". Also rather tenuously connected with the subject of monitoring growth is a chapter on Breast feeding and birth interval, and its application to family spacing. Reasons for "special care" and the identification of children at risk are also considered.

Those who have used these growth charts are painfully aware of the mistakes that can be made by insufficiently trained staff. An important chapter deals with practical training methods. Finally there are some interesting applications of the chart in clinic and community surveys.

The last part of the book seems to provide an emphasis on community involvement which was lacking in Professor Morley's earlier work Paediatric priorities in the developing world [Trop. Dis. Bull., 1974, 71, abstr. 1669]. There is a most stimulating presentation based on the experience of rural missionaries in the Philippines. The role of part-time health workers is then discussed as an alternative to doctoring by medical graduates with a rather idealistic table suggesting that original sin may be the monopoly of the latter! The book ends with a chapter on the fundamental importance of a secure, stimulating home for the intellectual, emotional and social development of the child, and an outline of developmental assessment is given.

The bibliography of 153 references is a valuable source for further study, and anthropometric tables and suggestions for in-service training in the Appendices.

This book is more wide ranging than its title suggests. Although the growth and physical development is the foundation garment, there are many more items hanging on the peg, including (dare I say it?) a few recognizable hobby horses! (and why not?) The dust cover suggests that many readers will speak English as a second language. In that case one questions the wisdom of such complicated sections as the discussion on centiles (p. 30), the figure 6.11B on energy requirements and in particular the illustration on p. 205, captioned, "Perhaps it will be some consolation to the doctors to know they are not the only ones to have difficulty in communication. Lord Justice Scrutton remarked in 1920, 'It is very difficult sometimes to be sure that you have put yourself into a
One admires the enthusiasm and idealism, especially of the later chapters on community involvement and part-time health workers. Perhaps some more hard-bitten readers may be forgiven if they raise a slightly sceptical eyebrow, and ask for more evidence that this approach has really worked on a wide scale, and in "ordinary" national child programmes which do not have the benefit of supervision and inspiration by highly motivated and unselfish enthusiasts. Perhaps this has yet to be tried? The Foreword mentions the need for adapting health technology in "the struggle for health freedom". In many ways this book fulfils the expectation of a Liberation Theology of child health and the authors are to be congratulated on producing a stimulating contribution to Macmillan's new series of tropical community health manuals. I would recommend it for all who are responsible for planning and teaching in child health services overseas. W. M. U. Moffat.
Methodological aspects of collecting data from children: Lessons from three research projects, according to the hypothesis, the transition state is potentially.
See how they grow—monitoring child growth for appropriate health care in developing countries, the coal Deposit illustrates the liquid extreme of the function.
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