The book is edited by Dr Beckie Nnenna Tagbo and Bertilla Ezeonwu, both of whom are thorough bred clinicians and medical teachers with decades of experience. The authors of the various chapters are also specialists of no mean standing and had experience from practice that cuts across several aspects of Paediatrics and Paediatric subspecialties. They have all brought their rich experience and practice to bear in making their contributions. The presentation of the book is appealing and easy to read. Its bullet-like and highlighted format makes it easy to go through. Its content is rich, up to date and current. It captures the essential aspects of paediatric care. It is relevant and useful for beginners and new learners of the subject and it could also serve as a quick reminder to older paediatrician. It could also serve a reference guide to practitioners in all spectra of practice. The section one is the introductory part where the reader is introduced to the rudiments of history taking and physical examination. It explains in simple and clear terms the methods of history taking, bearing in mind the age of the patients and the temperaments of the developmental stage. It emphasises the science and art of physical examination, and it presents the reader with a feel of the patient being right in front of the reader. The authors point the readers to several key areas and lacunae that are often overlooked in many big textbooks on the subject. Both the general physical examination and systemic examinations are detailed and systematically presented. The authors did not only mention the expected findings in the various examinations but went ahead to give the rationale for and pathogenesis of the various findings under different pathologic states. Various signs to look for were all enumerated and how to elicit them described appropriately. The section ends with an aspect on clinical reasoning and emphasised the two methods of reasoning out the patient’s assessment - deductive and inductive reasoning, and the appropriate times or situation in which either could be used. This section will be most liked by residents doctors as this is now an important and integral part of their training and examination by both postgraduate colleges.

Sections two to nineteen dealt with the various systems and aspects of paediatrics: starting from infectious diseases through to haematology, gastroenterology, endocrinology, pulmonology, neurology, cardiology etc. Most of the common infections were dealt with in section two, where a pattern of epidemiology, pathogenesis/pathophysiology, clinical features, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment, complications/prognosis, prevention/control were followed as appropriate. Each section of the various infections ended with relevant bibliography for readers that need further readings. The authors did a comprehensive write up on all the vaccine preventable diseases and common bacterial and viral infections. The chapter also most importantly emphasised the preventive and control measures using the five levels of prevention. Section three is on gastroenterology where the authors, like in the previous sections, went to town on ten common childhood gastroenterology conditions including gastroenteritis, malnutrition, liver diseases and peptic ulcer diseases. The authors called the attention of the readers to salient aspects of diagnosing and managing gastroenterology conditions in children. This chapter was concise, apt and comprehensive.

Section four, five and six dealt with cardiology, neurology and pulmonology respectively. The cardiology section began with a chapter on foetal circulation and how it transits to extra uterine circulation at birth before describing in detail ten common disease conditions encountered in paediatric cardiology. Sections five and six equally dealt with 9 chapters of common neurological conditions and eleven chapters of common respiratory conditions in children. The various chapters in the sections, all followed the same pattern in the previous sections of introduction, epidemiology, pathophysiology/pathogenesis, clinical features, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment, complication, prevention and control. Each chapter ends with recommendations for further readings. This approach helps the reader develop a pattern to follow while seeing a patient in real life.

Sections seven to twelve are on nephrology, dermatology, oncology, haematology, neonatology and endocrinology. Each section contains details of about 10 common disease conditions in paediatric practice. The authors brought their experience to bear in writing the chapters and they made tremendous efforts to explain even difficult concepts. The style of presentation equally makes for a good, quick and easy reading.

Sections thirteen and fourteen are on social/preventive and emergency paediatrics. Section thirteen covered ten chapters written by the editor in chief, where she brought her experience as a child health-care practitioner to bear on this very important but sadly, often forgotten aspect of child care. Preventive and social paediatrics may be the key to improvement in the well-being of the
Nigerian child. The paediatric common emergencies are dealt with in section 14 and the authors in a clear and precise manner wrote on step by step approach at managing them. Section fifteen is on common childhood syndromes. Even though the list of syndromes covered are by no means exhaustive, the included ones will in no small way stimulate the reader, particularly the younger ones (medical students and junior residents) and wet their appetite to explore more syndromes.

Section sixteen is on common paediatric procedures. Here the author gave a step by step approach to carrying out these procedures. The simplified manner of its presentation will enable the learner, under little or no supervision, easily learn the procedures and make them able to teach them to others. Section seven, it seventeen is on common drug formularies. The section covered common drugs that the reader may encounter in his or her day to day practice. However, it must be stated that this is not a substitute to consulting and making references to standard formularies when the need arises.

Section eighteen is a bonus and an icing to the cake where some common orthopaedic cases and conditions are considered. This will introduce the readers to these conditions, give them basic understanding of the conditions and clues on what to do in explaining and counselling the patients. It will also guide in making appropriate referrals to relevant orthopaedic surgeons.

In all, the book is well-conceived and bridges the gap of paucity of relevant textbooks for use in the tropics. It is a commendable effort to make available in a concise, easy to read, comprehensive and all-encompassing manner, information about common childhood illnesses and conditions. It is useful not only to beginners or first year clinical students but also to residents and consultants. It is a valuable resource material for all professionals involved in providing healthcare to children.

**REVIEWER**
Professor Jerome Boluwaji Elutayo Elusiyi is a professor of Paediatrics at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife and a Consultant Paediatrician and Endocrinologist at the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife. He is the current chairman, medical advisory committee of the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife.

**EDITOR’S NOTE**

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