

## Preface

This book derives from the Colloquium on Recent Advances in Knowledge of Bladder Control in Children, held under the auspices of the Department of Psychological Medicine, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with the invaluable support of Sir Martin Roth, Professor of Psychological Medicine.

The papers, discussions and exchanges over key issues were critical, yet tolerant, lively and productive, with the overall chairman Dr Ronald Mac Keith acting as a superb catalyst. Of necessity there was repetition, and the papers' appeal to a wider audience varied.

The Monograph is not a summary of the papers given and discussed at the Colloquium. Some were old and some were new, some were pink and some were (mildly) blue. The editors felt that a book of the newer ideas was more likely to be read, and so disseminate knowledge and interest, if it were short. They therefore went over the ground, selected certain topics, and asked individuals to provide papers presenting a fusion of their own ideas and those put forward at the Colloquium.

What has been encouraging has been the willingness of members of the Colloquium to agree to papers being fused or omitted, and, above all, to subject their own pet theories to vigorous scientific scrutiny for both their utilitarian value and their capacity to generate testable hypotheses. We hope the monograph, pared down though it is, provides a reasonably comprehensive review of much of what is presently known about bladder control in childhood, in terms of epidemiology, phenomenology, development, origins and mechanisms, delays, and therapies. We hope it will have clinical usefulness, but even more we hope it will provide a starting point and stimulus for further research in this field.

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