society and its effect on health. In my view, child public health should challenge societal structures that undermine and threaten the health of children. This book is a welcome first text in child public health but I am disappointed that it has no real radical edge and its essential message would not be seen as threatening by the current governments of the UK or the USA.

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With the proliferation of statistical methodologies and results now reported in the medical and clinical literature, this friendly, non-technical guide to the terminology of medical statistics should be a helpful basic reference for medical practitioners and students. Over 1500 terms are included, and each is clearly defined without the use of mathematical formulae, a fact which will make this book particularly acceptable to ‘numerophobes’. Illustrations are well-used; the various probability distributions and types of graphical displays are all presented. Terms are cross-referenced where appropriate, and most definitions contain references to further reading for those who are interested in a deeper understanding of the concepts and methods. Occasional annotations add cautions or comments on the use (or usefulness) of various statistical methods.

The author intends these ‘easily digestible’ definitions to provide a starting point for more detailed understanding if desired, and in providing simple explanations supplemented by references appears to have achieved this. One point which should be noted, however, is that in some cases the mathematically inclined reader may have found a simple formula easier to comprehend than a paragraph of text, and may find the lack of these frustrating. As a basic guide to terminology this book will be helpful, but those who find formulae useful or necessary may find that a dictionary of epidemiology or statistics is more suited to their needs.

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