This is a long and excellent book and well worth the price.

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Dictionary of Medical Ethics

Edited by A. S. DUNCAN, G. R. DUNSTAN and R. B. WELBOURN. Revised and enlarged. Pp. xxxi+459, Darton, Longman and Todd, London, 1981. £12.50.

The status of the medical profession rests not only on the service provided, it reflects society's trust in the standards of practice observed. At all levels this implies that moral obligations govern the conduct of doctors, and indeed the possession of a corporate ethics could be regarded as one of the essential marks of a profession. The publication within 4 years of a second revised and enlarged edition of this Dictionary confirms the current interest in this controversial field. There is now an introduction containing erudite essays on the evolution of Medical Science and of Medical Ethics. They are written by the editors and link the concepts underlying the book to the succeeding reference format. Subjects are taken from A to W with 148 authors contributing. In some entries, such as 'Abortion', an additional editorial comment is provided. The book is intended for the layman as well as the doctor, thus many subjects such as 'General Practice' or 'Intensive Care Units' give basic facts on the speciality, followed by a discussion of the related moral issues. The principal ethical theories and traditions are explained and the main International Declarations on medical practice, experimentation, and the determination of death are recorded in detail. There is extensive cross-referencing, and useful bibliographies are provided on many topics. As a mine of immediate information and a detailed reference guide to further study this work is unrivalled. Since medical ethics reflect important issues which involve society as a whole, authoritative, dispassionate and clear information must be made widely available. This book will undoubtedly go far to promote this end and will usefully stimulate and inform discussion.

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Emergency Psychiatry for the House Officer

By W. R. DUBIN and R. STOLBERG. Pp. 166. MTP Press, Lancaster, 1981. £8.95.

Whether he sees himself as having psychiatric skills or not, the House Officer in the A & E Department is going to be faced with the management of psychiatric emergencies. Violence, drug abuse, alcoholism, psychoses, suicide attempts, confusional states and plain human distress and fear will confront him frequently. He (or she, of course) may feel inadequate, frightened, impatient or irritated by such patients, but ignoring the problem won't make it go away.

This practical manual by two American psychiatrists written expressly for the non-psychiatric house officer should go some way towards increasing confidence in dealing with psychiatric emergencies. They give many excellent practical hints from how to approach the distressed patient ('How can we help you Mr Smith' rather than the patronising 'What's the matter Joe') to techniques for coping with those brandishing fire arms. Fortunately, the latter seem to be commoner in the U.S.A. where 'security guards' (*sic*) are more readily available than in the average British A & E Department.

The psychiatric presentation of organic disorders is well covered, even though perhaps inappropriately elaborate investigations for the emergency department (such as EEG and B₁₂ levels) are listed—but this is no doubt for the sake of completeness. There are useful tips on eliciting and interpreting a psychiatric history.

This relatively short but expensive paperback volume may be marred for some by the rather too comprehensive lists of symptoms, differential diagnoses and investigations, but overall it should prove a useful book for the duty room of a casualty department.

As the book is American, the U.S.A. trade names for drugs are bracketed with the official names which may cause some confusion. There is an appendix of some 58 pages (out of a total 166) listing virtually every drug in the pharmacopoeia and the names of commercial preparations. This long list purports to show which drugs have possible psychiatric side effects, though as many have none, or are non-specific, it would seem unnecessary to inflate this book by a third. Again, because of its American origin, no mention is made of the working of the Mental Health Act which would be useful for inclusion in such a manual for use in this country.

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Microbiology for Clinicians

By R. N. GRÜNEBERG. Pp. 179, illustrated. MTP Press, Lancaster. University Park Press, Baltimore, 1981. £11.95.

This little book dedicated to Joan Stokes maintains the purposeful clinical tradition which she herself originated in her work and writings.

It is not, nor does it affect to be, a text book. Early chapters discuss the pathogenicity and the differences between colonization and infection. There follows a chapter on the bacteriology laboratory including succinct descriptions of the various bacteria, their classification and the mechanisms by which they cause disease in man. Viruses, fungi and parasites have a single chapter in which the clinical significance of isolation and serological investigations are discussed. Probably the best chapter is on the anti-bacterial drugs in which Grüneberg's particular interest is reflected. His opinions on antibiotic combinations, the use of bactericidal drugs and the discussion on prophylactic chemotherapy are well informed and balanced in their treatment.

Infections in general practice are discussed in a separate chapter with advice on how best the microbiology laboratory might be used in these cases and there are separate chapters on infections commonly met with in hospitals, the use of the laboratory in outbreaks of infection, and the control of infection in the community; the last includes a discussion on public health, the containment of infection, immunization, and health education.

The microbiological missionary zeal of Grüneberg becomes readily apparent in the didactic and perhaps even inflexible chapters on the control of infection in hospitals and the control of antibiotic resistance; these rewarding chapters lay down very practical guidelines and describe clearly effective measures for the control of both. These are areas of unavoidable clinical involvement of microbiologists who will be very familiar with the problems described and will benefit from some of the solutions advised.

There is a final chapter which has an exciting and optimistic look into the future; that a note of pessimism creeps into this chapter is really due to Dr Grüneberg's unhappiness with the current control of antibiotic use and his fears that ill-judged and profligate use of valuable antibacterials will lead to less and less successful therapy in the future.

The strengths of the book are in its easily readable style and in the way in which laboratory techniques and methods, and the limitations of these, are appropriately interspersed with the clinical problems they have been designed to help solve. There is emphasis on the need for proper and relevant requests, the importance of proper specimens, the proper use of serological tests and a more rational approach to antibiotic use all bear the stamp of an author experienced in the problems at first hand. The concept of the microbiological ward round starting daily in the pharmacy is one which many consultant microbiologists could well emulate provided of course that this does not lead to the neglect of daily laboratory supervision of which we are warned in Chapter 3.

It is inevitable that this very personal and enthusiastic book which is really the first of its kind should, in achieving a readable style, sacrifice some literary and microbiological precision which longer and more comprehensive books might achieve.

Many might enjoy the apparently random selection from the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* which introduces not only every chapter, but certain parts within a chapter; if these quotations have somehow helped Dr Grüneberg to maintain his momentum then they may be forgiven. Others may be irritated by an exanthem of brackets which appears to pervade the earlier rather than the later chapters; again, these serve to give a technical definition to non-technical descriptions and as such may be almost unavoidable. There are some anomalies which creep in when general principles are illustrated by specific examples in brackets: it was probably never the author's intention to suggest that the use of tetanus antitoxin should await the isolation of the organism nor is it strictly accurate to suggest that antibiotic-associated colitis is an example of resistant organisms invading tissues after the use of broad spectrum antibiotics. It is to be hoped that the emphatic statement that any child 'under the age of five years brought to see a general practitioner should have a urine sample cultured' will be regarded as illustrative rather than mandatory.

Nonetheless this is an important and enjoyable book written by an enthusiast whose optimism allows him to think in terms of a world-wide antibiotic policy in the future: it can be thoroughly recommended for medical libraries, and should be obligatory reading for junior hospital doctors and indeed all those who use clinical microbiological services.

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Occupational Hygiene. An Introductory Guide

By A. L. JONES, D. M. W. HUTCHESON and S. M. DYMOTT.
Pp. 182, illustrated. Croom Helm, London, 1981. £9.95.

I recently reviewed for this Journal the new edition of Schilling's *Occupational Health Practice*. At that time I said that some of the chapters filled the gaps in medical training of the extra disciplines required for the practice of occupational medicine. One such gap was occupational hygiene. This new introductory guide to occupational hygiene provides a further summary of this topic.

A full understanding of occupational hygiene is as essential to the occupational physician as a knowledge of epidemiology and statistics is to the present day medical graduate. The hygienist is one of the health team in industry reducing by his work opinions to facts. Doctors must also recognize that the occupational health nurse is also a member of that team and today is sometimes not only better trained than the physician to carry out some of the environmental measures but also has more time than the part-time occupational

physician to devote to such tasks. One of the co-authors of this book is a senior occupational health nurse thus underlining the role of the nurse in this field.

The opening chapters provide simple basic physiological and chemical principles. The book then goes on to describe the techniques of measurement including the planning of surveys and, very briefly, biological monitoring—still essential to measure the success or failure of environmental control measures in the workplace. There are useful lists of industrial hygiene consultants, suppliers of sampling equipment and a glossary of terms and abbreviations. Each chapter has an adequate bibliography of suggested further reading.

It is a clear, concise and well written introduction to occupational hygiene, although expensive even by today's prices.

The authors recommend the book as both a learning and reference text for safety officers, safety representatives and occupational health nurses. I would suggest that occupational physicians, especially those working part-time, could also usefully study this book if only to equip themselves to deal with the questions posed to them by the authors' suggested readers armed with the knowledge derived from this book.

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Rehabilitation of the Hand

By C. B. WYNN PARRY. 4th edn. Pp. xv+409, illustrated.
Butterworths, London, 1981. £30.00.

Each of the previous editions of this unique book has been an improvement on the last and this is no exception. The title has always suggested a volume of more specialized and limited appeal than does a thorough reading of the text which has always covered far more than matters relating to the hand alone—anatomically up as far as the cervical nerve roots and in the best traditions of rehabilitation out into the community and the workplace where the success of the measures applied meet the sternest test.

The fourth edition has been considerably rewritten without becoming intolerably weighty in the process. There is some excellent new material on pain mechanisms, measurement and on pain treatment. Particularly since sceptics have had their suspicions about visual analogue scales confirmed by the observations of Bird and Wright that anyone presented with such a scale tends to mark it at a point corresponding to the golden section, one would tend to dissent from the view that 'it is now accepted that the use of a visual analogue scale is a valid and reproducible means of assessing pain'. But in this book other validated means are explained in detail. There is much in this section of interest to those who might profess no interest in rehabilitation. Likewise the clarity and detailed exposition of the proper use of electrodiagnostic methods makes the book essential reading for anyone in neurology, orthopaedics or rheumatology who asks for or performs electromyography or nerve conduction tests.

There are many texts in which long accepted positions on difficult topics are merely reiterated. One of the great virtues of the author's experience and perceptive approach is that such views are challenged and where necessary firmly rejected, as for instance in the case of Sudeck's atrophy being related to the type of personality. I am delighted to see that Wynn Parry dismisses this ill founded view which prejudices the management of patients from the outset. His review of