volume written by a host of authors with direct experience of blood disorders in the tropics, is more than welcome.

Many chapters make fascinating reading. Outstanding is the contribution by Fleming on haematological manifestations of malaria and other parasitic diseases and particularly the introduction on why haematological values may be significantly different in tropical Africa. There is an excellent review of tropical splenomegaly, dengue fever, and Burkitt's lymphoma.

It is difficult to understand why nutritional megaloblastic anaemia due to vitamin B₁₂ deficiency among Indian vegetarians is said to be excessively rare in South India when the reviewer has seen over 100 such cases among Hindu vegetarians in London in the last 5 years. Other chapters do not go much beyond the contents of the average haematology text. A fuller account of the haematology of tropical sprue (apart from India) would have been welcome.

The book has much to offer all those who might see patients with tropical problems and it should be on the shelf of every medical library.

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Current Surgical Practice Volume 3

Edited by JOHN HADFIELD and MICHAEL HOBSLEY. Pp. xiv + 313, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London, 1981. £14.95.

This is the third in a series of publications which present lectures given on the Fellowship courses at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. In this volume there is a slight departure from this theme since two overseas contributors, Professor Basu of Calcutta, writing on tropical surgery, and Professor Sheil of Sydney, writing on kidney transplantation, did not actually present their lectures at the College.

As with the previous volumes, a wide field of surgery and of specialist subjects is included. As well as the topics already mentioned, there are chapters on the salivary glands, endoscopy, abdominal tuberculosis, urinary calculi, wound healing, the swollen leg, paediatric surgery, the high-risk surgical patient, fractures, joint replacement, the surgery of the arthritic hand, radiotherapy and chemotherapy, and cancers of the bronchus and of the breast. A particularly fascinating paper by Professor Slaney reviews surgical research in the British Isles.

This series is characterized by clearly presented contributions on important current topics written by acknowledged authorities—many of whom are members of the Court of Examiners or members of Council of the College. The lectures are designed with the surgical trainee in mind but certainly established surgeons will find that these lectures provide an excellent up date covering a very broad field. As

Sir Alan Parks points out in his foreword, the half-life of scientific knowledge is in the region of 10 years and it is not easy for a surgeon who has to practise his art, teach and investigate also to indulge in the continuous process of self-education. Reading *Current Surgical Practice*, however, will certainly help!

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Respiratory Protection Principles and Applications

Edited by B. BALLANTYNE and P. H. SCHWABE. Pp. x + 376, illustrated. Chapman and Hall, London and New York, 1981. £20.00.

The book contains 20 separate chapters by predominantly British authors about the theory and practice of respirators in the workplace. There are three sections; basic principles, design and manufacture, and applications. The book is designed to be read either as a text book or as a source of reference. Occupational hygienists and safety officers might use it as a text book but will find the medical sections dry and disappointing as well as full of generalizations, e.g. 'a worker is unsuitable to use a respirator if there is cardiovascular disease of a type and severity which would contraindicate the use of respiratory protective equipment of the recommended type'. The book lacks a clear description of the fate of inhaled particles in the lung and the relevance of particle size to disease. This, together with a poor index, will limit this book as a source of reference for physicians. However, there is a good chapter on advances in engineering design which describes some newer respirators which are gaining acceptance with the worker.

The best practical sections deal with situations where respirators must be worn, such as with workers exposed to radioactive aerosols and highly pathogenic micro-organisms. Here worker acceptability has second place to technical efficiency. In situations where respirators are not mandatory worker acceptability has first priority. Papers from the Coal Board and asbestos industry paint a gloomy picture of respirators worn so infrequently that no significant protection is achieved.

There is duplication of the illustrations as well as the text between different papers which could have been remedied by more vigorous editing. In conclusion the book falls uncomfortably between one to be used by physicians and one for non-medical occupational health workers. I fear it will suit neither.

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