Books received

Clinical Pharmacy and Hospital Drug Management. By D. H. LAWSON and R. M. E. RICHARDS. Pp. xv+284, illustrated. Chapman and Hall, London, 1982. £17.50.
A Colour Atlas of Surgical Pathology. By W. GUTHRIE and R. FAWKES. Pp. 229, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1982. £35.00.
The Hilton Questionnaire. A Measure of Drinking Behaviour. User's Manual. By MARGARET R. HILTON. Pp. 15, NFER-Nelson Publishing Company, Windsor, 1982. Manual £2.25. Questionnaires (sold in packs of 25) £2.50.

An Introduction to Paediatric Neurology. By GWILYM HOSKING. Pp. 352, illustrated. Faber and Faber, London, 1982. £11.50 (cased); £5.95 (paperback).
MCQs in Paediatrics. By W. S. UTTLEY. Pp. xii+168. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1982. £3.95.
The Medical Teacher. Edited by K. R. COX and C. E. EVANS. Pp. 248, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1982. £10.00.
Statistics in Practice. By SHEILA M. GORE and DOUGLAS G. ALTMAN. Articles published in the British Medical Journal. Pp. 100, illustrated. British Medical Association, London, 1982. £7.00.

Book reviews

Fundamentals of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

By DEREK LLEWELLYN-JONES. 3rd Edn. Vol. 1 Obstetrics. Pp. 492, illustrated. Vol. 2 Gynaecology. Pp. 315, illustrated. Faber and Faber, London, 1982. Vol. 1 £10.00 (case edition £15.00) Vol. 2 £8.50 (case edition £11.50).

What a pleasure it is to review this, the third edition of the splendid textbook whose two volumes, with their distinctive blue and red covers, have for so long graced the shelves of libraries. The continued popularity is obvious from the appearance of a new edition and, although much has been added, this has been achieved with only marginal increase in the length of either volume.

In the obstetric volume further information on nutritional problems in pregnancy has been added and there is critical reappraisal of the management of labour. The chapters on the at-risk fetus in pregnancy and labour and on the low birth weight baby have been extensively revised as has the section on medical imaging, and the chapters on contraception, the breast and iso-immunization have been similarly updated. The gynaecological volume has similarly been brought fully up to date, there being coverage of prolactin secretion and hyperprolactinaemia, the chemotherapy of ovarian cancer, the use of anti-inflammatory drugs in spasmodic dysmenorrhoea and hormone replacement therapy. Additionally, the author is to be congratulated on his emphasis on the medical and psychosomatic aspects of the speciality for, as he points out, relatively few gynaecological complaints require surgical intervention.

There is one aspect of the textbook which is of particular interest, namely that the author has worked in different parts of the world and is therefore able to make comparison between developed and less well developed populations from first hand experience.

There are a few minor criticisms—is the Muller-Kerr manoeuvre used nowadays for the assessment of disproportion and surely the Crede method of placental expulsion is outdated?—but these are only minor ones. Otherwise it would be difficult to fault the text and the layout is superb, the line diagrams models of clarity and the micro-photographs of outstanding quality as are the ultrasound photographs.

Directed primarily at undergraduates or postgraduates doing their first resident appointment, the book should be read by all engaged in undergraduate training and can also be recommended to those taking higher qualification in the speciality. Both volumes serve to remind us of how a medical text-book should be written and provide a yard-stick by which others are judged.

A. E. R. BUCKLE,*
Lewisham Hospital,
London SE13.

*Mr Buckle died on 2 June 1982.

Neuroendocrine Regulation and Altered Behaviour

Edited by PAVEL D. HRDINA and RADHEY L. SINGHAI. Pp. 409, illustrated. Croom Helm, London, 1981. £25.00.

The book covers a vast field and some repetition is inevitable, particularly as the editors have given the 50 authors free rein. The publication delay does not allow for a review of the most up-to-date information. In such a rapidly changing field some of the views already appear dated. This is particularly prominent with regard to the discussion of dialysis and des-Tyr-gamma-endorphin in the treatment of schizophrenia where it has not been possible to reproduce the original startling reports. I had the opportunity of seeing the video tapes of the patients in the original Wagemaker and Cade study of dialysis in schizophrenia at the time of the first publication and had reservations on the validity of the diagnoses. Further doubt arose when Professor Hughes of Imperial College was unable to detect β -endorphin in the dialysate of schizophrenic patients treated at Charing Cross (Weller, Hirsch and Hughes unpublished) despite reports by Wagemaker and Cade of extremely high concentrations being present.

The chapter on neuroendocrine studies on the pathogenesis of depression is particularly interesting. It is a pity that the standardisation of the dexamethasone suppression test was not known at the time of the book's publication. Current enthusiasm for this test, particularly in America, may well decline but the absence of discussion on the sensitivity and validity of the test distorts the balance of the section on cortisol. Some recent work at the Institute of Psychiatry in London by Brian Meldum and Ian Campbell point to a change in the sensitivity of the α -adrenoceptors in depression, although earlier work reported in the book does not support this.

Although only peripherally related to the title, the chapter Psychophysiological Correlates of Mental Disorder illustrates the book's breadth and was a particularly interesting and well balanced section.

The book is a useful reference work, but at £25 will be beyond the reach of many.

MALCOLM P. I. WELLER
Friern Hospital,
London N11.