Books received

Clinics in Oncology. Vol. no. 1 March 1982 Hormone Therapy. Edited by B. J. A. FURR. Pp. 312, illustrated. W. B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, 1982. £10.75.

Early Gastric Cancer. Proceedings of the Second BSG SK & F International Workshop 1981. Edited by P. B. COTTON. Pp. 83, illustrated. Smith Kline and French Laboratories, Welwyn Garden City. Free of charge.

The Emergency Book. How to Handle an Emergency and Save a Life! By BRADLEY SMITH and GUS STEVENS. Pp. 137, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1982. £2.50.

Inequalities in Health. The Black Report. By DOUGLAS BLACK, J. N. MORRIS, CYRIL SMITH and PETER TOWNSEND, edited by PETER TOWNSEND and NICK SMITH. Pp. 240, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1982. £2.50.

Long-Term Prescribing. Drug Management of Chronic Disease and Other problems. Edited by ERIC WILKES. Pp. 269, illustrated. Faber and Faber, London, 1982. £15.00 (cased), £10.00 (paper cover).

Obstetric Analgesia and Anaesthesia. Current Reviews in Obstetrics and Gynaecology—I. J. SELWYN CRAWFORD. Pp. 154. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh and London, 1982. £6.00.

Phenoxybenzamine in Disorders of Micturition. Proceedings of a symposium held at the Cavendish Conference Centre, London November 1981. Edited by W. KEITH YEATES. Pp. 103, illustrated. Smith Kline and French, Welwyn Garden City, 1982. Free of charge.

Book reviews

Bailliere's Medical Transparencies. Disease from the Tropics. Set 1 (23 slides) Set 2 (24 slides).

By A. D. M. BRYCESON and V. E. ANDSELL. Paper back with slides mounted in plastic wallet, 10pp per set. Bailliere Tindall, London, 1981. £20.28 (not sold singly).

These two sets of well chosen slides illustrate a wide range of diseases that may be imported into temperate countries from the tropics and sub-tropics. Each slide is accompanied by a paragraph or two of text. The content is adequate for some of the intended users, i.e. nurses, medical students and postgraduate students who want a quick review of the bare bones of tropical medicine. Anyone who has a specific topic relating to diagnosis or patient management will need to consult a standard text in internal medicine or infectious disease.

I should like to have seen a clear statement that people die from falciparum malaria if it is not diagnosed and treated promptly whereas malaria due to other species of parasites does not cause death directly. I would have altered the order of presentation in a few places. I would not have written 'an amoeboid trophozoite' (of *Entamoeba histolytica*). There are a number of omissions, e.g. *Campylobacter* as a cause of diarrhoea and colitis, and a number of spelling mistakes.

At a retail price of £20.28 these slides cannot be the best buy when the Wolfe Colour Atlas of Tropical Medicine retails for £24.00 and covers a much wider range of conditions with more detailed information. The slides may provide a basis of teaching material for use by lecturers but again the price is too high when compared with the slides offered by Teaching Aids at Low Cost (TALC).

S. G. WRIGHT
Hospital for Tropical Diseases,
London NW1

Biology of Skin Cancer (Excluding Melanomas)

Edited by O. D. LAERUM and O. H. IVERSEN. UICC Technical Report Series—vol. 63. A series of Workshops on the Biology of Human Cancer. Report No. 15. Pp. 263. UICC, Geneva, 1981. Sw.Fr. 44.00.

This is the fifteenth workshop on human cancer organised by UICC (Union Internationale Contre le Cancer). The holding and sponsorship of the international workshops on cancer is highly laudable and to be commended. However, this particular volume was disappointing.

The book consists of a series of chapters dealing with possible

aetiological factors, such as chemicals, ultra-violet light, ionizing radiations and viral agents. The role of the dermis, immunology of the host and ageing were also considered. There was very little new in the book and some of the texts were so simple as to be more suitable for an undergraduate textbook than an international workshop. The possible immunological factors in skin cancer were dealt with in less than two pages, and like most of the book, seemed to be a partial review of the literature with no original thoughts from the authors or panel of experts.

There was little consistency in the book. The chapter on immunology implies that this may not be important, and yet the chapter on viruses implies that host response may be relevant in determining whether patients develop malignancy. In the discussion on ultra-violet light it is stated that the 'assumption' is that rays with a wavelength of 280-320 nm are probably responsible for inducing malignant change. Yet the next sentence states that PUVA (with rays of 320-400 nm) may well be carcinogenic.

I found the main defect of this book to be the irritating absence of an index. The book is well referenced and may be of some help to researchers in the field, but then most will probably be familiar with the contents. I cannot recommend it to clinicians.

L. FRY
St Mary's Hospital,
London W2

Clinical Electroencephalography

By L. G. KILOH, A. J. MCCOMAS, J. W. OSSELTON and A. R. M. UPTON. 4th Edn. Pp. xii + 292, illustrated. Butterworths, London, 1981. £19.50.

This admirably succinct yet comprehensive textbook of clinical electroencephalography has been appreciatively used by clinicians and technicians for over twenty years. Now in its 4th edition the original three authors have been joined by Professor Adrian Upton who has contributed a new and authoritative chapter on event related potentials; other recent technological and diagnostic advances such as the use and potential of telemetric monitoring and portable cassette recordings are also included.

The sections covering the anatomy and physiology of the cerebral cortex, the neural basis of the electroencephalogram and the techniques and methodology of recording are logically and clearly set out, the features of the EEG in a wide variety of organic neuropsychiatric syndromes lucidly discussed and the final chapter concerning the value and limitations of electroencephalography is so admirably presented that even the most sceptical neurologist will be