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).

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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.

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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

persuaded of the merits of this somewhat abused diagnostic technique.

That the authors have been able to accomplish this mammoth task including a useful bibliography inside 300 pages is a remarkable compliment to their selective judgement as well as to the admirable brevity and readability of their literary style. This further edition of an authoritative, compact and readable book will prove even more successful than its predecessors and well merits its obligatory place in every general medical as well as neurological and psychiatric library.

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A Colour Atlas of Gynaecological Surgery. Volume 5. Infertility Surgery

By DAVID H. LEES and ALBERT SINGER. Pp. 200, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1981. £28.00.

This volume in the 6-volume series on Gynaecological Surgery deals with the operative management of infertility. Although it is mainly devoted to surgical operations and techniques, it includes useful chapters on diagnosis and management; techniques for investigations and diagnosis of utero-tubal disease; psychological factors in infertility surgery, *in vitro* fertilization and embryo transfer; and artificial insemination.

The general overview of causes of infertility provided in the first chapter is fairly comprehensive, with the exception of the post-coital test and cervical mucus sperm hostility, about which the authors are rather too dismissive. The one page chapter on psychological factors in infertility surgery provides a sensible checklist of the prerequisites which should be satisfied before embarking on such surgery. However, it does not sufficiently emphasize the importance of explaining the success rate of the proposed procedure to the patient and her partner, in order to enable her to come to a well-informed decision about the operation.

The major part of the book is devoted to providing detailed step-by-step descriptions of the various infertility operations, including a chapter on micro-surgical techniques. All these descriptions are based on serial colour photographs, with superimposed arrows and reference markers, of actual operations, which were such a successful feature of the earlier volumes.

This volume, as its predecessors, will be extremely useful for training gynaecologists and deserves a place on the reference shelves of Departmental Libraries or Postgraduate Medical Centres.

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Doctors and Management Skills

By FRADA ESKIN. Pp 78. MCB Publications, Bradford, 1981. £6.95.

Since 1974 clinicians have been formally involved in NHS management and from April 1982 they have been even more involved. Whereas NHS authorities and organizations such as the King's Fund have tried, successfully in my view, to assist clinicians fulfill their management roles by, for example, running courses, no one as far as I am aware has written a text on management specifically for them.

Dr Frada Eskin, who is Director of the Unit for Continuing Education at the University of Manchester, Department of Community Medicine and who in this capacity has been active in organizing management courses for clinicians has now provided such a text.

The stated objective of this book is to identify for the NHS clinician the knowledge and skills relevant to him (sic) in his management role, but this implies a breadth of compass which it does not, in fact, fulfill.

It is simply a text on what the Harvard Business School would call 'Organizational Issues', dealing in its span of 70 pages and 8 substantive chapters with such subjects as teamwork, planning, leadership, group behaviour and the very practical issue of 'Managing Meetings Effectively'.

It is clearly impossible in such a short book to give other than an outline of what is a large subject with an extensive bibliography and for the interested clinician who wishes to pursue it in more depth the references are hardly adequate. However I consider that Dr Eskin has done clinicians a useful service in providing this introductory text. It requires, however, to be accompanied by other similar volumes on other aspects of management to form a comprehensive series for clinicians. If the publishers are not already working on the other volumes, I hope they will take the hint. I can recommend this book to all clinicians whether they plan to become DMT members, DHA members or simply to fight for the survival of their own services even though the relatively high price of £6.95 will make them think twice about doing so.

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EEG Technology

By R. COOPER, J. W. OSSELTON and J. C. SHAW. 3rd edn. Butterworths, London, Boston, 1981. £16.00.

This is the third edition of a text which has become the standard indoctrination for workers in the field since the first edition in 1969. Several chapters, particularly relating to electronic technology, evoked potentials and data analysis techniques, have been extensively re-written as indeed was necessary. Primarily addressed to technicians, the contents must be the stock in trade of all who work in clinical neurophysiology. The text is relatively short and precise, there are no frills and little speculation, and the selection of material germane to the task it sets itself and admirably meets.

If there is a criticism, and one wishes in no way to detract from the broad common sense of this volume, then it is that it appears as a follower rather than as a leader in the field. The authors themselves have made notable contributions to the subject and present the state-of-the-art conventional wisdom. As they remark, the introduction of new techniques, CAT scanning in particular, isotope imaging and NMR to come, have none the less left the unique contribution of electrophysiology still in demand. The time is ripe for reappraisal of the role of clinical neurophysiology. EEG departments are by and large relatively dull and unenterprising in their forward look. The leaders of the future, both technicians and clinicians, cut their teeth on this book—what better audience could there be for a little provocative and imaginative prodding on the application of new technology to old and new diagnostic problems? The evoked potential is making an impact, the evaluation of central control and feedback systems ready to go. The whole field has more exciting potential than we have yet seen. Perhaps the authors might pick up the challenge?

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The Global Eradication of Smallpox. Final Report of the Global Commission for the Certification of Smallpox Eradication

History of International Public Health, no. 4. Pp. 122, illustrated. World Health Organisation, Geneva, 1980. Sw.fr. 11.00.

In 1966 the World Health Assembly started an intensification of the