Books received

- Babyhood.* By PENELOPE LEACH. 2nd edn., revised and expanded. Pp. 579, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1983. £4.95.
- Chest Medicine.* Edited by R. B. GEORGE, R. W. LIGHT and R. A. MATHAY. Pp. x+657, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1983. £35.00.
- A Colour Atlas of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery.* CHARLES GRANT CLARK. Pp. 168, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1983. £50.00.
- Diseases of the Esophagus.* Edited by SIDNEY COHEN and ROGER D. SOLOWAY. Contemporary Issues in Gastroenterology Vol. 1. Pp. xii+305, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London and Melbourne, 1982. £28.00.
- Herpes: the Facts.* By J. K. OATES. Pp. 123, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1983. £1.50.

- Leukemia.* Edited by F. W. GUNZ and E. S. HENDERSON. 4th edn. Pp. xxv+986, illustrated. Grune and Stratton, New York and London, 1983. \$95.00.
- Martindale: The Extra Pharmacopoeia.* Edited by JAMES E. REYNOLDS (Assistant Editor ANNE B. PRASAD). 28th edn. Pp. xxx+2025. The Pharmaceutical Press, London, 1982. £57.00.
- Practical Orthopaedic Medicine.* By BRIAN CORRIGAN and G. D. MAITLAND. Pp. xiii+421, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1983. £40.00.
- A Synopsis of Haematology.* By JOHN D. M. RICHARDS, DAVID C. LINCHE and ANTHONY G. GOLDSTONE. Pp. viii+306, illustrated. Wright, PSG, Bristol, London, Boston, 1983. £10.00.

Book reviews

The Challenge of Pain

By RONALD MELZACK and PATRICK D. WALL. Revised edition of *The Puzzle of Pain*. Pp. 447, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1982. £4.95.

This book is a revised and expanded version of Professor Melzack's earlier work entitled 'The Puzzle of Pain' published in 1977. In the current work, the author of the original volume is joined by his 'Gate Control Theory' partner, Professor Patrick Wall, and this formidable team has provided a book that is not only easy to read but is also informative and provocative.

Chapters on basic experiences and concepts of pain are followed by neuroanatomy and physiology, together with the various theories of nociceptive transmission and appreciation clearly propounded. Welcome additions to the original material are chapters on current pain control practices including neurosurgery, sensory and psychological techniques. Pain Clinics and Hospices are also fully covered and the concluding essay is on the future of pain control.

Unfortunately, it is in the newer material that some contradictions occur, omissions are made and certain key references are absent, all of which detracts from the completeness of this otherwise comprehensive survey of contemporary thought and practice. Some readers may also find the occasional lapse into Mid-Atlantic jargon jars amidst generally smooth-flowing prose.

However, the overall impression is that this book adequately satisfies the need for a bridge between the lay and the scientific literature concerning pain. Melzack and Wall have again provided a lead which will enable interested persons to acquire depth and complexity of knowledge about pain suitable to their need.

Undoubtedly a best buy, even though the quality of reproduction does not match the high standard of the text.

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A Colour Atlas of Gynaecological Surgery Vol. 6 Surgery of Conditions Complicating Pregnancy

By DAVID H. LEES and ALBERT SINGER. Pp. 213, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1982. £35.00.

The 6th volume of David Lees' and Albert Singer's book maintains the high standard of photography together with lucidity of text achieved in previous volumes. The authors highlight the problem of text-books in operative surgery, namely that of conveying to the reader structures which are often all too different in real-life situations. This they achieve by the adoption of a 'slide presentation technique' which works splendidly, especially when photographs rather than line drawings are used.

This volume of the Atlas is particularly useful since it brings together surgical aspects of pregnancy which are rarely considered as a whole. For many years, the standard text in surgical obstetrics has been Munro Kerr's 'Text-book of Operative Obstetrics', a classic work which has tended, however, through its various editions, to be rather let down by the quality of the illustrations, which have failed in the reviewer's opinion, to enlighten the text. The same, certainly cannot be said of the Atlas, in which photographs and drawings comprise the major part.

The chapters which deal with the control of haemorrhage in obstetrics, and the techniques of subtotal and total hysterectomy for uterine rupture are particularly good, providing many simple points which will undoubtedly be of great value to obstetricians faced with such problems with little first-hand experience. No mention, however, is made of the management of massive vulval haematomata, the occurrence of which, although uncommon, can be very worrying and extremely difficult to manage, and could well have usefully been included in this volume. However, this omission apart, this volume adds considerably to the Atlas as a whole and can be thoroughly recommended.

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Early Gastric Cancer. Proceedings of the Second BSG SK & International Workshop 1981

Edited by P. B. COTTON. Pp. 83, illustrated. Smith Kline and French Laboratories, Welwyn Garden City, 1981. Free of charge.

This 83 page book documents current experience of early gastric cancer. This consists of lesions confined to the mucosa and submucosa, of the stomach, regardless of the presence of lymph-node, metastases. The epidemiology and pathogenesis of gastric cancer (including the nitrosamine hypothesis) are well covered and the histopathological classification of early gastric cancer is clearly described by Serck-Hanssen. There are good descriptions of the known pre-malignant lesions: patients with chronic gastritis, intestinal metaplasia of the stomach, pernicious anaemia, adenomatous gastric polyps, Menetrier's disease or a previous gastrectomy constitute high risk groups. However, most cases do not occur in these high risk groups. The majority of patients with early gastric cancer have symptoms, but only one case is diagnosed in every 400 dyspeptic patients submitted to endoscopy.

The Japanese experience of mass screening of asymptomatic populations is described by Kawai. Sixty percent of gastric cancers so diagnosed were early gastric cancers and the 5 year survival of this group after gastrectomy is a staggering 90%. In Europe, however,

mass screening is much less practicable—on average only 0.1% of such asymptomatic individuals will have early gastric cancer.

Total gastrectomy is considered to be the treatment of choice by most, but not all, authors. It is clear that many problems remain, but this book succeeds admirably in its primary aim of raising the level of awareness in the U.K. for early gastric cancer and it should be read by everyone with an interest in gastroenterology.

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Epidemiology of Diseases

Edited by D. L. MILLER and R. D. T. FARMER. Pp. xiii + 492, illustrated. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, 1982. £28.50.

While there are by now several textbooks on the methods and general applications of epidemiology, few, if any, have so far attempted systematically to describe the epidemiology of the major diseases. Anything of this kind would be an ambitious undertaking and is what the editors of this volume set out to do. How far have they succeeded? The book is intended not only for those in preventive medicine but for practising clinicians as well. The 9 main sections cover infectious diseases, diseases of the heart and blood, chronic respiratory disease, digestive disease, diseases of the genito-urinary system and female breast, endocrine diseases, locomotor and neurological diseases, accidents and suicide and maternal and fetal health. The list of authors includes both epidemiologists and clinicians; on the whole, the former provide the most useful contributions. Dr Jocelyn Chamberlain's chapter on cancer of the female breast, for example, provides an account not only of the general epidemiology of the condition and of aetiological hypotheses, but also of progress in attempts at prevention through screening. The chapter on rheumatic disorders by Dr Philip Wood and Dr Elizabeth Badley is a valuable and largely self-contained account of a particularly difficult topic. Some of the chapters in the sections on gastro-intestinal and genito-urinary disease are on the sketchy side. However, the sections as a whole are well-referenced, many including suggestions for further reading. Consequently, the book is a useful starting-point for anyone unfamiliar with the epidemiology of a particular condition, and, in some cases, it provides a definitive account.

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Evaluation of Methods of Treatment and Diagnostic Procedures in Cancer. Studies conducted by the Project on Controlled Therapeutic Trials (1978-1982)

Edited by R. FLAMANT and C. FOHANNON. UICC Technical Report Series—Vol. 70. Pp. 146. UICC, Geneva, Hans Huber, Bern, 1982. S.Fr. 24.00.

This excellent short paperback, printed cheaply using typewriter script, is a collection of nine papers prepared for the UICC. Each article addresses a problem in the assessment of methods of cancer treatment. There is discussion of the ethics and design of controlled trials, the evaluation of new diagnostic tests, of the statistical consideration in trial design and problems in informed consent.

The articles are a model of lucidity, common sense and practicality. Any oncologist involved in trials of treatment should read and understand what is in this little book. It only takes 2 hr to read and it is well worth putting this time aside to remind oneself of the problems of this type of scientific investigation. Highly recommended.

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Guidelines for a Voluntary Cancer Organization

Edited by M. A. WOOD. UICC Technical Report Series. Vol. 65. Pp. 162. UICC, Geneva, Hans Huber, Bern, 1982. S.Fr. 28.00.

With the increasing interest and concern in matters of health, a number of voluntary organisations have been set up which are involved with specific diseases. These organisations are usually run by lay people, though generally in collaboration with interested members of the medical profession.

Provided they are sensibly administered, these societies can do nothing but good. From the point of view of the patient, they can offer a wide range of help, they can create a link between the doctor and the public so that each side knows each other's problems, they can play a very important part in fund raising and finally they provide a most useful outlet for those people who wish to help those in trouble.

This booklet, published by the UICC, is a most useful guide for setting up such voluntary organisations. Medical practice and the social scene vary in different countries and, although this book is written by an international team who have wide experience in this type of work, some of the suggestions and advice will not be universally applicable. It deals in a clear and practical way with the problems which can arise in initiating a voluntary organisation. It starts with an important chapter on organisational structure, it goes on to discuss relationships to health care, research, welfare, education, public relations and finally fund-raising. It is full of helpful advice, useful check lists etc and it cannot be too highly recommended to those who are considering working in this field.

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An Introduction to Neurophysiology

By J. F. STEIN. Pp. viii + 386, illustrated. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, 1982. £12.00.

This relatively small volume sets out to present neurophysiology in a lively and exciting way. The author has not always succeeded in conveying the fascination of the subject, as he states is his intention, but it is always very readable. There is inevitably, a degree of simplification in a volume of this small size and it is useful to have some well chosen further readings given at the end. These are mainly of other books; perhaps a few more original papers should be included.

The layout is relatively standard, conveying the properties of neurones, synaptic transmission, sensory mechanisms, special senses, motor control, spinal reflexes and the extrapyramidal system. These chapters, the main body of the book, present an adequate account but are followed by several short chapters on sleep, specialised cortical function and mechanisms of memory, which barely scratch the surface of the vast amount of data now available, incomplete or contradictory as some of it may be. It is easy to understand why these chapters were so rigorously pruned from the author's statement of intention in the preface but it has been over-done. This section inevitably contains some controversial facts and a few errors creep in, such as REM sleep scalp activity being shown as similar to Stage 1 sleep and an auditory-evoked potential without polarity indication. Others in my own field of clinical neurophysiology will find the very brief and inadequate paragraph on clinical uses of EEG saddening. Here a fellow scientist seems to confuse the physiological information of the EEG with the anatomical precision of CT scanning, while ignoring the many aspects of clinical disease in which the EEG may be dramatically altered without anatomical change. I am sure Dr Stein does not really confuse these issues but it illustrates how the later chapters have suffered by being over-brief. Better omitted altogether than sacrificing academic standards to this extent. The inclusion of 2 chapters at the beginning on neuroanatomical and neurophysiological techniques is a welcome innovation and one particularly appreciated by students who have seen the book.

Overall, the impression is of a book containing much of value in very readable style and which would make a good introductory text.