Books received

Annual Review of Public Health. Volume 4, 1983. Edited by LESTER BRESLOW, JONATHAN E. FIELDING, Associate Editor; LESTER B. LAKE, Associate Editor. Pp. 424, illustrated. Annual Reviews Inc., 4139 El Camino Way, Palo Alto, California 94306, U.S.A., 1983. \$27.00 (U.S.A.), \$30.00 (elsewhere), prices include postage and handling.

The Basic Neurology of Speech and Language. By MICHAEL L. E. SPIR and F. CLIFFORD ROSE. 3rd edn. Pp. ix + 213, illustrated. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Melbourne, Boston, 1983. £9.50.

Cardiovascular Disease. Integrated Clinical Science Series. Edited by JOHN R. HAMPTON. Pp. xi + 276, illustrated. William Heinemann Medical Books, London, 1983. £2.75.

Joseph Black, 1728-1799: a Commemorative Symposium. Papers presented at a Symposium held in the Royal Scottish Museum on 4 November 1978 in association with The Scottish Society of the History of Medicine, together with a Survey of Manuscript Notes of Joseph Black's Lectures on Chemistry. Edited by A. D. C. SIMPSON.

Pp. viii + 69, illustrated. The Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, 1982. £4.00 (plus 50p postage and packing in U.K. Overseas rates on application).

A Laboratory Guide to Clinical Diagnosis. By R. D. EASTHAM. 5th edn. Pp. xi + 367. Wright, PSG, Bristol, London, Boston, 1983. £10.75.

Lecture Notes on Epidemiology and Community Medicine. By R. D. T. FARMER and D. L. MILLER. 2nd edn. Pp. viii + 214, illustrated. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Boston, Melbourne, 1983. £6.80.

Mnemonics, Rhetoric and Poetics for Medics. By ROBERT L. BLOOMFIELD and E. TED CHANDLER. Pp. 222, illustrated. Harbinger Press, Box 17201, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106, U.S.A., 1982. \$9.50.

Noninvasive Methods in Atherosclerosis Research. Atherosclerosis Reviews. Edited by RUTH JOHNSON HEGYELI. Vol. 10. Pp. xiv + 200, illustrated. Raven Press, New York, 1983. \$49.00.

Book reviews

Antimicrobial Chemotherapy

Edited by DAVID GREENWOOD. Baillière's Concise Medical Textbooks. pp. 323, illustrated. Baillière Tindall, London, 1983. £6.95.

The students at the University of Nottingham Medical School are indeed fortunate to be taught by the formidable team which David Greenwood has harnessed in this useful, concise textbook on antimicrobial chemotherapy. The subject matter is divided into five parts, covering general properties, laboratory aspects, resistance, general principles and the therapeutic use of antimicrobial agents. The book is further sub-divided into 29 sections each of which is concise and self-contained.

The book is illustrated with 35 tables and 37 figures; three of the figures are of poor quality black and white photographs but these detract little from the overall value of the book. Each section varies in context although the styles of the different writers have been moulded to maintain continuity. The text is easy to read and is not cluttered with references although the student is given recommendations for further reading at the end.

In terms of detail, the student will find few contentious points although it is a mark of the times that little is said about acyclovir and hepatitis B vaccine such is the speed of new innovations and the time taken to publish even modest works. It would seem that even in the last year, clinicians are casting doubts on the therapeutic value of chloramphenicol combined with gentamicin in the treatment of neonatal meningitis.

It seems incongruous that one part or section of any book should be singled out, but I found the general principles of use of antimicrobial agents especially useful and in particular would recommend the section on adverse reactions to antibiotics. Nevertheless, the colourful descriptions and sense of humour portrayed by the editor will not be lost on the students but I hope the students will attend the practical courses as well as reading the results of their

mentors' art. At £6.95, this book is good value for all medical students.

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Drugs and Pregnancy. Human Teratogenesis and Related Problems

Edited by D. F. HAWKINS. Pp. 243. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne and New York, 1983. £10.00.

This book is based on a symposium held at the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 1980. Although the book is relatively short, it covers a wide range of topics. The first section deals with the concepts of teratogenesis, inappropriateness of animal testing, placental transfer of drugs and the general principles of prescribing in pregnancy. The second section considers therapeutics in normal and abnormal pregnancy and selected specific topics such as the use of corticosteroids and antibiotics, the effects of drugs of abuse, the treatment of premature labour, neonatal jaundice and breast feeding. Throughout the book, the emphasis has been to give a balanced viewpoint on the possible risks and benefits of drug therapy in pregnancy, in contrast to the almost universal manufacturer's disclaimer "safety in pregnancy has not been evaluated".

There are some curious idiosyncrasies and inconsistencies. In considering control of heparin treatment, heparin blood levels are dismissed as unpredictably unreliable and bedside estimation of the clotting time is recommended instead. This is surely even more unreliable, and very few haematologists would endorse this opinion. In the chapter on placental transfer, all antibiotics except penicillin are cited as potential teratogens. The conclusion to the chapter devoted to antibiotic therapy states that the antibiotics used routinely may be considered fairly safe for the foetus. I would agree with the latter opinion.

However, in general I would recommend this book to the

interested reader who requires a careful appraisal of drug therapy in pregnancy written with a clinical bias. It is attractively produced and well referenced.

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Histocompatibility Antigens. Structure and Function. Receptors and Recognition Series B, Volume 14.

Edited by P. PARHAM and J. STROMINGER. Pp. xi + 246. Chapman and Hall, London and New York, 1982. £27.50.

The latest in a series on 'Receptors and Recognition', this volume concerns itself with the structure and function of the major histocompatibility complex (MHC): HLA in humans and H-2 in the mouse. These extremely polymorphic cell surface antigens play a pivotal role in self/non-self recognition. Although of interest primarily to immunologists and biochemists, it will also be of interest to those who are on the sidelines and would like to increase their knowledge of MHC biology.

The book consists of seven chapters each written by different authors and dealing with different aspects of the MHC. The first two chapters deal with structural analysis, both at the protein level and recent work using cDNA for genomic analysis. We then move on to chapters examining the role of MHC in cellular interactions and immune response gene control of T lymphocyte responses. There is a discussion on whether T cells see antigen and MHC separately (dual recognition) or as one unit (associative recognition), and the way in which different classes of MHC antigens act to direct the activities of distinct functional subsets of T lymphocytes. Class I antigens (H-2K, -D, -L in mice, HLA-A, -B, -C in man) mainly restrict the specificity of cytotoxic T lymphocytes, whilst class II antigens (H-2I in mice, HLA-D in man) mainly restrict the specificity of regulatory T lymphocytes, although this is not absolute. Chapter 6 deals with class III antigens, which are the MHC-linked complement components, and asks why they should be linked to genes concerned with restricting T cell specificity. In the final chapter Jan Klein speculates on the evolution and function of the MHC. This is probably the most enjoyable chapter in the book, overflowing with personal interpretations of the information presented in the preceding chapters.

Each chapter is extensively referenced and there are a number of informative tables and diagrams. The only minor criticism is that only two and a half pages are devoted to the topic of HLA and disease. Although perhaps beyond the scope of this book a slightly longer discussion of this aspect would have given a more complete picture of the MHC. Whilst any book of this type cannot hope to be fully up to date, for anyone wanting a grounding in MHC biology it should prove invaluable.

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Modern Emergency Department Practice

Edited by DAVID K. BROOKS and ANTHONY J. HARROLD. Pp. xii + 431, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London, 1983. £50.00.

With the increasing importance of the Accident and Emergency Departments in our hospitals, and the emergence of this subject as a recognized specialty, there is an obvious need for textbooks specifically designed for clinicians working in this field. Dr David Brooks, Consultant in charge of the A & E Department of St Mary's and Anthony Harrold, his Orthopaedic colleague, have collected together a couple of dozen other specialists, both from the United Kingdom and the U.S.A., to cover the major medical and surgical emergencies likely to be seen in the department. These include general, orthopaedic and neurological surgeons, dentists, paediatricians, toxicologists and physicians, as well as a psychiatrist, radiologist, anaesthetists, gynaecologist, ophthalmologist and an ENT specialist. As well as chapters dealing with specific emergencies seen in the admission room, there are useful sections on shock, respiratory

failure and the organization and administration of the department. Emphasis is placed on the patient's care in the emergency department rather than on subsequent ward admission.

The textbook is clearly and interestingly written and well illustrated with x-rays, photographs and line drawings. Each chapter is provided with an up-to-date bibliography.

This volume will find a useful place on the library shelf of all clinicians with a commitment to emergency care.

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Practical Orthopaedic Medicine

By BRIAN CORRIGAN and G. D. MAITLAND. Pp. xiii + 427, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1983. £40.00.

What is taught in postgraduate centres often bears little relation to the spectrum of diseases seen in general practice. This is particularly true in rheumatology. New cases of rheumatoid arthritis are uncommon in a practice, but this disease forms the bulk of teaching by consultants. The numerous soft tissue lesions and mechanical problems of the locomotor system were at one time referred to physical medicine specialists. With the welcome expansion of the scientific basis of rheumatology and a denigration of 'slap and tickle' treatment, physical medicine was officially abandoned, first by the professional society which changed its name to the British Association for Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, and then by the D.H.S.S. 'Physical Medicine' is definitely non-U, and should not be seen over the door of Rehabilitation Departments by government edict. This has not cured the diseases formerly referred to such consultants, however. They form a group of patients whom orthopaedic surgeons are frequently too busy to treat and some rheumatologists are too ignorant to recognize.

Practical Orthopaedic Medicine considers these conditions particularly. It is written by an Australian rheumatologist and a physiotherapist whose mobilizing techniques have achieved international recognition. The book is unusual in that it starts from an anatomical rather than pathological considerations, most joints receiving a chapter of their own. The interests of the authors are reflected in devoting 24 of the 39 chapters to the spine, although this also mirrors the relative frequency of musculo-skeletal problems in the community. The opening chapters deal with classification, history, examination and management. Systemic medicine receives a page, injection techniques three pages, and physical measures 13 pages. In the section on the spine, four chapters are devoted to manipulation. This topic, however, is critically evaluated, the need for controlled trials emphasized, the complications cited, and the conclusion drawn that manipulation may hasten remission in some cases without affecting long-term prognosis. Passive methods of treatment, including heat, ice, deep-friction massage, transcutaneous nerve stimulation and interferential therapy, are described but not subject to the same rigorous scrutiny.

Physiotherapists will profit from detailed methods of examination in this volume, and clinicians may be unfamiliar with some of the clinical entities, such as breast-stroke swimmers knee, chondromalacia fabellae, and calcaneal osteochondritis. General practitioners, with an interest in disorders of the locomotor system, will be pleased to read this book and keep it for reference. Orthopaedic surgeons, whose high antibody titre against Cyriax prevents them reading his interesting writings, may feel able to peruse this work with profit. Rheumatologists will find it a helpful reminder that their specialty embraces more than the uncommon diffuse disorders of connective tissue. Reading this well-produced book made me glad to work with enlightened physiotherapists who practice the techniques detailed in its pages. An extensive bibliography and a detailed index complete an enjoyable volume.

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