Books received

- Anaesthesia: Review 2.* Edited by LEON KAUFMAN. Pp. 228, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1983. £12.00.
- Annual Review of Microbiology.* Edited by L. NICHOLAS, ALBERT BALOWS and PAUL BAUMANN. Vol. 37. Pp. viii + 676, illustrated. Annual Reviews, Palo Alto, California, 1983. \$27.00 (U.S.A.), \$30.00 (elsewhere). Prices include postage and handling.
- Bailey and Bishop's Notable Names in Medicine and Surgery.* Revised by HAROLD ELLIS, 4th edn. Pp. xvi + 272, illustrated. H. K. Lewis, London, 1983. £15.00.
- A Clinical Approach to Progress in Infectious Diseases.* Edited by W. BRUMFITT and J. M. T. HAMILTON-MILLER. Pp. xii + 163, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1983. £12.50.
- Clinical Biochemistry of Steroid Hormones: Methods and Applications.* By J. K. GRANT and G. H. BEASTALL. Pp. 303, illustrated. Croom Helm, London, Canberra, 1983. £19.95.
- Clinics in Haematology. Vol. 12, no. 3, October 1983. Bone Marrow Transplantation.* Edited by DAVID G. NATHAN (Guest Editor). Pp. xii + 227, illustrated. W. B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, 1983. £11.75.
- Clinics in Immunology and Allergy. Vol. 3, no. 3, October 1983. Natural Mechanisms of Immunity.* edited by RONALD B. HERBERMAN. Pp. vii + 209, illustrated. W. B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, 1983. £11.75.
- Clinics in Oncology, Vol. 2, no. 3, November 1983. Transfusion Support Therapy.* Edited by CHARLES A. SCHIFFER. Pp. xi + 255, illustrated. W. B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, 1983. £11.75.
- Critical Care of the Obstetric Patient.* Edited by RICHARD L. BERKOWITZ. Pp. xiv + 561, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London and Melbourne, 1983. £45.00.
- Leukemia Ecology: Ecological Prophylaxis of Leukemia.* By JULIAN ALEKSANDROWICZ and ALEKSANDER B. SKOTNICKI. Pp. xv + 205, illustrated. National Center for Scientific, Technical and Economic Information, Foreign Scientific Publications Department, Warsaw, Poland (Distributed through the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia), 1982. \$19.00 (U.S.A.), \$38.00 (other countries).
- Poisoning.* By ROY GOULDING. Pocket Consultant series, Pp. 240. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Boston, Melbourne, 1983. £5.95.
- Recent Advances in Diabetes. No. 1.* Edited by MALCOLM NATTRASS and JULIO V. SANTIAGO. Pp. ix + 258, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne and New York, 1983. £19.50.
- Recent Advances in Rheumatology. No. 3.* Edited by W. CARSON DICK and J. M. H. MOLL. Pp. x + 239, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne and New York, 1983. £24.00.
- Reflections on the Universities and the National Health Service.* By SIR FRED DANTON. The Rock Carling Fellowship, 1981. Pp. xvii + 165. The Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, London, 1983. £7.50.
- Smoking Control Strategies in Developing Countries. Report of W.H.O. Expert Committee.* World Health Organization Technical Report, Series 695. Pp. 92. World Health Organization, Geneva, 1983. Sw.fr.8.00.

Book reviews

Aids to Postgraduate Medicine

By J. L. BURTON. 4th edn. Pp. 232, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1983. £4.50.

This pocket-sized book is an established favourite with M.R.C.P. candidates and rightly so, since it presents a large volume of essential knowledge in a style that is easy to assimilate. There are omissions, of course, but these are as much a result of the size of the book as the author's intention to be brief. There is nothing in the book that is redundant, even the title will suggest a disease to any doctor short of diagnostic ideas.

I should not forget my brief which is to review critically and not wallow in praise. My chief complaint is with the opening section which discusses the M.R.C.P. examination. It is a direct copy from the 3rd edn. with the inclusion of the latest entrance requirements set by the Royal College. No account has been taken of the addition of Basic Sciences to Part I, and in Part II, I would think that any candidate seeing only three short cases would undoubtedly fail. The Royal College makes a point of the importance of history taking, not the opposite as Dr Burton suggests.

There are two additional chapters in the main part of the book: Venereology and Pyrexia and Hypothermia. The latter is outstanding for its brevity and the former, notable for one omission, viz. AIDS. I still find the chapter on Rheumatology confusing (no classification of arthropathies) and that on Renal Disease enlightening. One final moan, sarcoidosis seems to have disappeared from the book. There are fewer changes than I expected, but this reflects, I am sure, the good quality of the last edition. I would still strongly

recommend *Aids to Postgraduate Medicine* to all doctors as an *aide-mémoire*.

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Atlas of Bronchitis

By K. MORGENROTH and M. T. NEWHOUSE. Pp. 106, illustrated. Butterworth Scientific, London, Boston, Singapore, Sydney, Wellington, Durban, Toronto, 1983. £22.50.

In the preface to this atlas it is stated that the book attempts to 'improve our understanding' of the clinical, pathophysiological and pathological features of bronchitis. For someone new to the subject, the attractive illustrations dramatized by imaginative colouring and artistic licence will no doubt draw him to the useful information in the text. Scanning electron microscope photographs are tinted green, and in one three-dimensional drawing based on electron microscopy, the cilia can be seen apparently blowing away from the epithelial cells in acute bronchitis. Anything that makes people curious enough to read in this television age is acceptable, and the text is scientifically sound. However, someone who already knows something about bronchitis and wishes to improve his understanding at a postgraduate level will be disappointed by the brevity of the list of references at the end of the book, and by the absence of text references to them. Some key references in the subject are not mentioned anywhere. There are also some typographical errors that

could have been avoided, such as 'lymphocytes' on p. 40. However it is an attractive atlas for the beginner.

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Bone and Joint Disease in the Elderly

Edited by V. WRIGHT. Medicine in Old Age Series. Pp. 305, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1983. £20.00.

In multi-author books one usually finds chapters of varying quality but this book proves to be an exception to this rule. All 15 chapters are well written, are of very high standard and most end with a large number of up-to-date references. Having said this there were a few obvious minor deficiencies. The chapter on osteoporosis lacked full discussion on all the known aetiological factors and in particular there was no discussion on the possible role of vitamin K dependent calcium binding protein, osteocalcin. Sadly neither was there any mention of exercise or mobility in the prevention of osteoporosis.

The only statement in the book that I would challenge is the upper limit of normality for ESR. The figures quoted in the chapter on rheumatoid arthritis are 20 mm/hr for males and 30 mm/hr for females over the age of 50 years. These figures may be acceptable for the 'younger' elderly but the 'older' elderly have a much higher upper limit. Certainly I have found ESR values of over 50 mm/hr in fully ambulant elderly without any evidence of disease.

Apart from these minor points, the book provides insight into bone and joint disease in the elderly and offers good practical advice. As nearly 50% of hospital beds are occupied by elderly patients this should prove to be useful not only to geriatricians but all clinicians who deal with the elderly.

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Cancer of the Cervix: Diagnosis and Treatment

By HUGH M. SINGLETON and JAMES W. ORR, JR. Current Reviews in Obstetrics and Gynaecology Series. Pp. 233, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne and New York, 1983. £9.95.

This is an excellent monograph on carcinoma of the cervix, which is fully up to date and deals comprehensively with the subject in a relatively short paperback. It gives the personal views of the authors but these are very much in line with mainstream thinking. There are particularly useful sections discussing microinvasive carcinoma, the staging of carcinoma and the relative merits of the surgical, radiotherapeutic and chemotherapeutic treatments. The place of radical surgery is included. There is also an excellent section on post-treatment surveillance, and the psychological, social and sexual aspects of cancer of the cervix are very well described. The authors are well-known authorities in the field working in America.

I am sure this book will be of great value to postgraduate students prior to examinations and for all those concerned with the clinical management of this distressingly common disorder. I recommend it without reservation.

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Clinics in Haematology, Vol. 12, no. 2, June 1983 The Spleen

By S. M. LEWIS (Guest Editor). Pp. vii + Pp. 361-608, illustrated. W. B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, 1983. £11.75 (subscription price £21.50 per annum).

This is a further addition to the Clinics in Haematology Series. Recent years have seen considerable developments in our ability to

assess the role of the spleen and its size *in vivo*. The benefits of otherwise of its removal in myeloproliferative disorders have become clearer as a result of the MRC trial in chronic myeloid leukaemia as well as in chronic myelofibrosis. We are more aware of the importance of splenic pooling as a mechanism of anaemia and the indications for splenectomy are more clearly defined than they have ever been. All these aspects are covered in this volume.

Leon Weiss contributes an excellent chapter on structure of the spleen based on his outstanding EM preparations. Splenic imaging using isotopes as well as computerized tomography are dealt with by Myers and kinetics of flow of cellular elements of the blood through the spleen by Peters. A further chapter deals with the immunological role of the spleen.

Clinically orientated chapters deal with hypersplenism, haemolytic anaemia, thrombocytopenia and diagnostic splenectomy. Finally there are chapters on the spleen in chronic lymphatic chronic myeloid leukaemia and myelofibrosis.

The value of this book is that it brings together information about the spleen that is usually scattered throughout a larger textbook of haematology. Its defect is that the data are largely taken out of context. It will be a source of information on the role of the spleen in a variety of blood disorders and is a useful addition to this series.

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A Laboratory Guide to Clinical Diagnosis

By R. D. EASTHAM. 5th edn. Pp. xi + 367. Wright. PSG, Bristol London, Boston, 1983. £10.75.

This useful and reasonably economical small book was first published in 1964 and its continuing popularity is attested by the appearance of this 5th edn, 7 years after the last edition. Dr Eastham already has a well-established reputation for having compiled useful books on biochemical values in clinical medicine as well as introductory texts on water and electrolyte metabolism and differential diagnosis.

For its size, the book is remarkably complete and particularly in respect of rare diseases and their unique biochemical features. Its detail is comparable to that in the small print in very large textbooks of medicine such as 'Cecil and Loeb'. Dipping into the book and looking into the sections referring to aspects which I am most familiar, I thought that the general standard of information and the completeness thereof was outstandingly good. My only slight disappointments were that in the respiratory disorders there was rather little about the interpretation of blood gases and acid-base status, but perhaps this really reflects the general scheme, which is to discuss specific diseases, conditions and syndromes first, as the main headings and then to describe the individual features of each one. In some respects, the arrangements of the contents is confusing, e.g. respiratory acidosis has a small paragraph in the 'disorders of metabolism' section and does not appear as chronic ventilatory failure or under some similar title in the respiratory section. The index is rather poor, and for example, no varieties of lactic acidosis are identified other than very rare causes. I would also like to have seen some reference to plasma renin estimation, apart from unilateral renal artery stenosis, and also perhaps some more details on some of the newer available tests for endocrine disorders. Prolactin, for example, is not in the index and indeed I could find no reference to it at all in the section concerned with pituitary disorders.

However, despite these minor criticisms, which reflect perhaps the impossibility of a single-author text book covering the whole enormous field of laboratory investigations, this book will be of great value to the practising physician, particularly in chasing up rare biochemical disorders, and it certainly deserves a place in all hospital libraries.

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