might seem of domestic importance only at first sight but it gives valuable information, on lipid metabolism especially. Similarly, a chapter on energy metabolism in different species (Baldwin) gives some clues as to why energy requirements and expenditure vary so much in human populations.

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Antifibrinolytic Drugs: Chemistry, Pharmacology and Clinical Usage, Derek Ogston. Pp. xiv + 180, illustrated. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1984. £15.00.

It comes as quite a surprise to the non-specialist to read, in this very well written small textbook by Professor Ogston, of the wide range of clinical situations in which antifibrinolytic drugs may be of use. Despite its size, this text has brought together a very large amount of information concerning the pharmacology and clinical usage of this somewhat controversial group of drugs. The book is divided into three sections beginning with a well structured introduction to the fibrinolytic enzyme system followed by sections on the mechanism of action, pharmacology and clinical pharmacology of the various anti-fibrinolytic drugs available and, finally, the section on clinical usage. The chapters on chemistry and pharmacology of the drugs are quite detailed but have been produced in small 'byte' sized pieces for ease of reference and retention. My only criticism of this part of the book is the limited use of explanatory diagrams. Those that are included are, however, most helpful. In the final section, the use of anti-fibrinolytic agents in clinical situations from subarachnoid haemorrhage through menorrhagia to protein-losing gastroenteropathy and possible influence on tumour growth and metastasis, are well covered in short sub-headed sections as in the first half of the book. The presence of an adequate index and extensive references to the text (over 300 related to clinical usage alone) makes this short text book a useful addition to the shelves of all those interested in the problems of thrombosis and anti-thrombotic therapy.

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Essentials of Nuclear Medicine, M.V. Merrick. Pp. vi + 312, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1984. £14.00.

Departments of Nuclear Medicine are now commonly found in district general hospitals in UK instead of, as previously, only in special centres. There has been for some time a need for a reasonably priced comprehensive but concise guide to current practice in this speciality which Dr Merrick's book satisfies admirably. Omitting much of the theoretical background, he has described basic techniques, their clinical

indications and relevance, and the significance and interpretation of the images and the quantitative data.

There are chapters on the brain and CNS, lungs, liver and spleen, heart, kidneys, skeleton, blood and RE system, gastro-intestinal tract, endocrine system, tumours and soft tissues and paediatric work. The material is up to date and in accord with current practice. Where less commonly used procedures are described, their indication and limitations are made clear. A bibliography for further reading is given at the end of each chapter, most references being later than 1980 with a few going back to 1975.

There is very little to which this reviewer could take exception. Appendix (2) in the contents list is entitled 'Dosage of Radiopharmaceuticals in Children' but actually turns out to be a table of radiation doses to the fetus from various procedures, which would not normally be used in pregnancy anyway.

There is some controversy about the best way of doing ventilation perfusion lung scan and several of these are discussed; but if krypton 81^m is available most single gamma camera departments would prefer to do a simultaneous ventilation-perfusion scan at one visit.

These criticisms are minor, however, and I am sure will be corrected in subsequent editions. While there can be no substitute for an adequate period of practical training in a department of Nuclear Medicine, this book will serve as a sound introduction to the speciality as well as a reference source for clinicians.

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Gynecologic Ultrasound, edited by William B. Steel and William J. Cochrane, Clinics in Diagnostic Ultrasound. Vol. 15. Pp. xiii + 194, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1984. £27.00.

A textbook edited by a radiologist and an obstetrician/gynaecologist is a rare event. As every gynaecologist knows, few radiologists are familiar with gynaecology; and, as every radiologist knows, most gynaecologists will proceed to laparoscopy or laparotomy anyway. On such mutual distrust have relations between the two been traditionally based. But the potential ability of ultrasound, computed tomography and interventional techniques to allow the gynaecologist to stay his hand requires the radiologist/ultrasonographer to understand the overall clinical picture. This book attempts to inform both, and constantly stresses the importance of collaboration.

This book is well written and concise. The repetition often found in multi-author texts has been severely discouraged by the editors. Bibliographies are reasonably up-to-date.

The chapters on the paediatric pelvis, gestational trophoblastic disease, ectopic pregnancy and pelvic malignancy contain a wealth of clinical and diagnostic detail. However, since common things are common, I regret the omission of a chapter on uterine fibroids. Ovarian follicle monitoring might also have been included.

Less happily, transatlantic 'black-on-white' scans are occasionally juxtaposed with those we would consider more correct. This may be confusing for the less experienced.