Cataract, Philip Awdry and C.S. Nicholls. Pp. 87, illustrated. Faber and Faber, London, Boston, 1985. £2.50 (paperback), £5.95 (cased).

This short volume is a clear and concise account of a common ocular disability – cataract. It aims to allay the anxieties and fears of patients, their families and friends by giving an explanation of the facts about cataract and the operation for its removal.

Written in simple and plain language it is of interest to the general reader, nurse, medical student and general practitioner. It has a useful glossary of ophthalmic terms, and an account of the simple anatomy of the eye. Some of the main causes of cataract formation are described briefly. The post-operative problems of the correction of aphakia with spectacles, contact lens and intra-ocular implants are considered. The illustration showing a selection and the variety of intra-ocular implants may confuse the general reader. There is a useful chapter on 'Do's and Don't's' following surgery.

The highly sophisticated technique of keratomileusis is maintained although the authors state, 'At the moment it does not seem to have any immediate relevance to the treatment of the post-cataract state'. For the medical historian, there is an interesting account of the historical aspect of cataract and its treatment.

Having digested the contents of this book, the pre-operative patient would be in a better position to give informed consent for the operation, but he might be a little worried about the outcome when he is given the useful address at the end of the book of the Royal National Institute for the Blind. The book can be recommended to cataract patients, their families and health care professionals.

J.S. Conway
The Royal Free Hospital,
London NW3 2QG.

Oxford Colour Atlases of Pathology, 3. Colour Atlas of Pulmonary Cytopathology, Jennifer A. Young. Pp. 147, illustrated. Harvey Miller Publishers, London; Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1985. £55.00.

This is a comprehensive and elegant atlas. There are twelve sections, each with a general introduction and a list of relevant references. Copious micrographs illustrate and the captions describe the cytopathological appearances of the benign lesions that can be identified in smears, infections, and infestations of the respiratory tract, particularly in the immunodeficient patient, and malignant tumours. The emphasis, quite rightly, is on primary bronchogenic carcinomas, but there are also good sections on the lymphoproliferative disorders involving the respiratory tract, mesothelioma and metastatic tumours. Contaminants seen in sputum are covered in the final section. A general bibliography and a full index complete the book.

The quality of the illustrations is of a high order, the legends are lucid and informative.

There are a few points on which a practising cytopathologist might take issue with this book. Can early bronchial carcinoma be distinguished from a more advanced lesion on the basis of the cells illustrated in Figs. 4.7 and 4.8? Were the

cells illustrated in Figs. 5.31–5.36 diagnostic of the carcinoids from which they were recovered. How is small cell carcinoma, intermediate type illustrated by a single case distinguished from a non-small cell carcinoma of lung? This can be of vital clinical significance. The careful student will, however, learn to recognise and live with diagnostic problems. These small points apart, this book fully meets its objective which is to help postgraduates training in pathology, practising pathologists and laboratory scientific officers specialising in cytopathology.

C. Grubb
Department of Cytology &
Cytology Training Centre,
(Royal Free Hospital:
University College Hospital),
National Temperance Hospital,
London NW1 2LT.

Medical Textbook Review, and, Books for Medical Libraries, Seventh edition, compiled by Victor Daniels and Howard Hague. Pp. iv + 198. Cambridge Medical Books, Cambridge, 1985. £3.00.

Victor Daniels' Medical Textbook Review, which now appears annually, has established itself as an essential information source for librarians responsible for book selection and collection development. One of its great virtues is its selectivity which makes it much more useful than the often overpowering lists of publication produced by national bibliographies, publishers' trade catalogues and other, usually computer generated, listings.

It is the equivalent of a *Which?* report on medical books of interest to medical students and clinicians and although it covers only some research level monographs and omits publications aimed at the general public it does include books which could best be described as physicians' bedside reading. The reviews are concise, rarely running to more than five lines, and indicate the level of use for which the book is intended. The comments are very readable and while they are clearly personal assessments they are none the worse for that. There is a sprinkling of general remarks among the reviews which add further interest such as 'why have separate preclinical and clinical texts in these days of integrated courses?'

Although essentially a listing the 'Review' could almost be read from cover to cover though a run through a subject section to compare one's own opinion with Dr. Daniels' would be both useful and entertaining. I appreciated the occasional alerting to the fact that though certain 'standard' texts were now in their *n*th edition they were no longer the books they had been and their places were being taken by other works. This kind of comment is particularly useful for librarians who are always in danger of buying the next edition simply because they have all the earlier ones.

Some series, such as 'Aids to . . .', are covered, but others such as 'Recent Advances' are not though they are included in Howard Hague's supplementary list of basic books for a medical library. I was very pleased to see that inclusion in the review related in no way to the advertising it carries; one major publisher advertised eight titles but the review men-