cardiac lesions *really* sound like, appear to have been subverted.

Overall, however, the book succeeds in its aims and there is little to challenge it in its field. Perhaps McLeod and Munro's *Clinical Examination*, another excellent book, scores occasional points for its more down-to-earth clinical descriptions but the range of coverage, detail and astonishing value for money (over 600 pages) will mean that 'Hutchinson' remains the standard for all concerned with diagnosis in medicine. I would happily commend it to students and junior doctors training with me.

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Obesity in Europe 88, edited by Per Bjorntorp and Stephan Rossner. Pp. xi + 380. Illustrated. John Libbey & Co. Ltd., London, 1989. £30/US\$58/FF355/

Textbooks are often out-of-date when published but due to the editors' efficiency and modern technology, this book is an exception. Contained within is a synopsis of the more important work presented at the first European Congress on Obesity which took place in June 1988. There are 56 chapters subdivided into 10 sections spanning a wide area of current research interest including epidemiology, molecular biology, neurochemistry of appetite control, brown fat thermogenesis and obesity therapy.

The epidemiological section emphasizes the metabolic and cardiovascular risks of abdominal fat accumulation which interestingly is more prevalent in premenopausal women from Southern Europe compared with those in Northern Europe. A study of body weight gain averaged only 0.5 kg. There is much emphasis on the pathology of obesity with interest centred on the control of appetite and thermogenesis which hormonally appear to be counterbalanced. The possible important role of corticosteroids and especially corticotrophin releasing factor in obesity development are well reviewed. The regulation of adipose tissue development is becoming an important area of research especially with the discovery of adipsin, a protein which is markedly increased during adipocyte differentiation and which may be a marker for the genetic control of obesity. The use of recombinant DNA technology to investigate gene regulation of the uncoupling protein which produces thermogenesis in brown fat is also well described. For the clinician there are 9 chapters mainly concerned with atypical beta agonist thermogenic drugs and the newer anti-depressant anorectic agents. This book obviously does not encompass every new aspect of obesity but it is invaluable for those wishing a precis of the latest advances especially as it is so well referenced; beg, buy, or borrow a copy.

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Reviews on Immunoassay Technology, Volume 1 and Volume 2, Edited by S.B. Pal, Not illustrated. Pp: Volume 1 ix + 238; Volume 2 viii + 204. Macmillan Press, Basingstoke, Hampshire, 1988. £40.00 each.

This two-volume series contains 21 chapters contributed by a total of 53 authors and provides a wealth of information on a wide variety of topics related to immunoassay development and application. Immunoassay techniques included are enzyme immunoassay and 'ELISA', fluorescence (and particle counting fluorescence)-immunoassay, luminescence, spin label and liposome-label immunoassays. These techniques are coupled with studies on topics ranging from the detection of anti-drug antibodies to the biosynthesis of rat complement components and phagocytosis quantitation. Additional techniques covered include flow cytometry for 'polymorph' function studies. 'Western blot' analysis of herpes simplex virus proteins and non-isotopic labelling for the characterisation of the TSH receptor. Three chapters give timely reviews on the theory and practice of the production of human monoclonal antibodies by Epstein Barr virus techniques and their application to non-isotopic immunoassays.

The series has been written with emphasis on experimental detail, with good, critical comments on limitations and potential problems with techniques. 'Reviews on Immunoassay Technology' will be a valuable addition to libraries of service and research laboratories which use immunoassay techniques; the wide range of topics covered suggests that its information would be most helpful in libraries serving several departments rather than within a particular discipline.

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Study Guide and Review Manual of Human Embryology, by Keith L. Moore, Not illustrated. Pp xi + 247. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Kent. 1988.

Dr Moore's series of textbooks on human embryology are well known and have come to be much appreciated by medical students for their clear exposition and attractive presentation. This book falls into a different category. It consists of a series of exercises designed to test the knowledge of the student who is preparing for an examination and is built entirely around multiple choice questions. Sometimes the student is asked to select 'the one best answer', whilst at other times complex combinations of answers must be chosen. The objectives are set out clearly at the beginning of each chapter and probably fit in fairly well with those of most teachers of human embryology, though not all would demand such detail from their students. The answers to each question are easy to locate and are supplemented with explanatory details.

This book makes no concession to the fact that it is dealing with an interesting and exciting subject, and for that reason I shall not be recommending it to my own students. Apart from a few small line drawings it is innocent of illustrations. The object is to enable a cramming student to absorb a mass of

facts suitable for passing a multiple choice question examination. Judged as such, it has apparently been a great success in its earlier editions. Dr Moore assures us in his preface that he has received letters from students around the world 'expressing their appreciation' of his book. It seems likely therefore that many people will be delighted to see this new edition.

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Books Received

Annual Review of Public Health, Volume 10, by Lester Breslow, Jonathan E. Fielding & Lester B. Lave. Pp vi + 460. Annual Reviews Inc., Palo Alto, California, USA. 1989. \$39.00 (U. S. A. and Canada), \$43.00 (elsewhere).

Clinical Neurology, C. David Marsden & Timothy J. Fowler. Physiological Principles in Medicine Series. Pp xvi + 464, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London, Melbourne, Auckland, 1989. £19.95.

Electrodiagnosis in Diseases of Nerve and Muscle: Principles and Practice. Second edition, Jun Kimura. Pp xxxv + 709, illustrated. F.A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, 1989. £62.34.

Frontier Medicine, Christine Hogg. Pp 102. Greater London Association of Community Health Councils, 1988. £5.00

Hutchinson's Clinical Methods, Michael Swash, Pp xi + 618. Bailliere Tindall, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, Sydney, Tokyo, 1989. £7.95.

Human Papillomavirus and Cervical Cancer, edited by N. Muñoz, F.X. Bosch & O.M. Jensen. IARC Scientific Publications No 94. Pp xii + 155, illustrated. International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, 1989. £19.00

Medical Libraries: a User Guide. Pp viii + 110, illustrated. British Medical Association, London, 1987. £6.95 (includes post and packaging).

Oxford Textbook of Psychiatry, 2nd Edition, Michael Gelder, Dennis Gath and Richard Mayou. Pp xiv + 1079. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Melbourne, 1989. £45.00 (Hardback) - £22.95 (Paperback).

On-Call: Out-of-Hours Telephone Calls and Home Visits, J.D.E. Knox. Practical Guides for General Practice 9. Pp + 66. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1989. £5.95.

Patient Care in Community Practice. A handbook of non-medical health-care, Robin J. Harman. Pp xvi + 239, illustrated. The Pharmaceutical Press, London 1989. £10.00

Recent Advances in Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, No. 4, edited by P. Turner and G.N. Volans. Pp. xi + 255, illustrated, Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1989. £45.00.

Talking With Patients: a Basic Clinical Skill Philip R. Myerscough with contributions from A.L. Speirs, R.M. Wrate, C.T. Currie and D. Doyle. Pp 148, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1989. £9.95.

Thoracic Surgery, Mark A. Foss. Pp viii + 168. Austen Cornish Publishers, London, 1989. £15.00.