Book Reviews

The Oxford Textbook of Clinical Nephrology, Volumes 1, 2 and 3, edited by Stewart Cameron, Alex Davison *et al.* Pp. xx + 2,348, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1992. Hardback £275.00

It is a pleasure to welcome this major, largely European-authored textbook of clinical nephrology, another product of the Oxford Textbook of . . . series. Without being too chauvinistic, and fully recognizing the merits of the big American renal textbooks, there has certainly been a need for a textbook that takes a view of nephrology from this side of the Atlantic.

The editors lay stress on their intention to produce a book relevant to the clinical aspects of nephrology with renal anatomy and physiology presented with the needs of clinicians looking after the renal patient in mind. In this context much space is devoted to drugs and the kidney. The aims have been well realized to the extent of providing chapters for other specialists covering renal problems of especial relevance to other specialties such as oncology, dermatology, and gastroenterology. The problems of big multi-authored books (and this one is very big in weight and price) include obtaining consistency of style and presentation and in ensuring publication within a reasonable time of completion of each chapter. The former has been achieved with distinction, particularly bearing in mind the polyglot background of the authors. However, a large number of chapters have sometimes dated reference lists and occasionally miss a recent significance advance. The authors of the chapter on amyloidosis clearly got their manuscript in good time as it does not refer to SAP scanning in the condition.

As with other Oxford Textbooks the layout and presentation of material is attractive. The radiographs and photomicrographs are remarkably clear and informative.

The Oxford Textbook of Clinical Nephrology will prove an important addition to hospital, medical school and department library shelves. It should go some way to demystifying nephrology and making the principles and practice of the speciality more accessible to non-nephrologists. I would hope the editors in a future edition would continue the process by making the nosology of renal disease less confusing. *We* know that minimal change – disease, -glomerulopathy, -nephropathy, -glomerulonephritis and -nephrotic syndrome *are* all the same thing. Do they?

B.I. Hoffbrand
Whittington Hospital,
London N19

Recent Advances in Surgery, edited by C.D. Johnson and I. Taylor. Pp. 255, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, Melbourne, Edinburgh, 1992. Paperback £19.95.

The first five editions of this book were published in the 31 years between 1928 and 1959. So rapid has been the

changes in surgical practice that the most recent five editions have been published in the past ten years and Number 16 is due to be published in 1993. Edited by C.D. Johnson and I. Taylor since 1990, this series aims to provide up-to-date reviews for surgical trainees, particularly those studying the generality of surgery.

In this edition, the contributors are all from hospitals and university departments in England and provide clear authoritative and up-to-date reviews. The topics discussed range from the uncommon problems of adrenal tumours and soft tissue sarcoma of the limbs to the more commonplace ones of haemorrhoids and anal fissures, the latter of which I particularly enjoyed. The important rapidly developing subject of oncogenes is reviewed by J.P. Neoptolemos and colleagues from Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham. Unfortunately, I consider this chapter difficult to understand for anyone without knowledge of molecular biology. Other chapters concentrate on breast cancer screening (I.D. Campbell, G.T. Royle; Southampton), surgical management of ulcerative colitis (T.J. O'Kelly, N.J. McC. Mortenson; Oxford), oesophageal varices (G.P. Copeland, R. Shields; Liverpool), renal cell carcinoma (J. Cumming; Salisbury) and laparoscopic cholecystectomy (C.D. Johnson, R. Jago, R.F. Frost; Southampton). To help the busy general surgeon keep up-to-date there are reviews of recent advances in general surgery (breast cancer and gastroenterology), vascular surgery and head and neck malignancy. And to help the trainee there are chapters on fluid and electrolyte balance and blood transfusion.

This volume maintains the high standards set by previous editions and not only is it essential reading for surgical trainees but also for established consultants, particularly those general surgeons with a special interest and those who examine Fellowship candidates.

R.C. McDonald
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary,
Acre Street, Londley,
Huddersfield.

Atlas of Suction-Assisted Lipectomy in Body Contouring, edited by Frederick M. Grazer. Pp. xi + 417, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, Tokyo, 1992. Hardback £125.00.

That Dr Grazer and his team know their subject, this book leaves no doubt. It is a beautifully printed and amply illustrated (in black and white) manual dealing with all aspects of liposuction – both as an independent entity and in combination with other operations for body contouring.

The book is divided into five sections each of which contains several chapters of text together with references and suggested reading followed by an appropriate collection of pre-, intra- and post-operative photographs. This is documented a historical survey of fat extraction operations, the basic principles of liposuction and the equipment for and the technique of performing the procedure in different areas of the body. The book now goes further than being a simple manual: it becomes a sort