Book reviews

Tutorials in Differential Diagnosis
By Beck, Francis and Souhami.
What an excellent book! Paper backed, nicely produced and inexpensive, it is written by three physicians working in general hospitals and directed towards students and post-graduates. Each chapter deals with a prominent symptom and explains and evaluates it and discusses the differential diagnosis. The text is full of good clinical sense and a model of clarity. At the end of each chapter is an illustrative case history with questions of the sort now used in Part 2 of the Membership. The case is then discussed and the questions answered. What is so refreshing is the absence of dogma and an entirely practical approach. Altogether no postgraduate can fail to gain instruction and confidence from study of this book.

Some small criticisms. Why no mention in the chapter on peripheral oedema of idiopathic oedema? It may be a vague title but is a very real entity. Figure 7.3 on ventilation/perfusion abnormalities was of no help to this reviewer while the representation of an emaciated 52-year-old Indian lady can only be described as deluded.

Obstetrics and Gynaecology Annual 1973
Edited by Ralph M. Wynn
This book consists of seventeen separate and unusually comprehensive reviews, contributed by a similar number of writers, each an authority in his chosen field. The reviews cover a wide selection of subjects, each of which is of particular moment in present day obstetrics and gynaecology and range from the purely technical to problems of a largely social nature.

Of special obstetric interest are the chapters on Testicular Feminization, Uterine Blood Flow, The Diagnosis of Foetal Maturity and the Clinical Uses of Oestriol Assays. Subjects of a more gynaecological nature which are well reviewed are Intrauterine Contraception and The Present Role of the Gynecologic Oncologist (sic), while the chapters on the Ultrastructure of the Placenta, Steroid Hormone Receptors and Radiological Assays are probably somewhat too specialized to be of great value to the practising Obstetrician/Gynaecologist.

The book, taken as a whole, is an up-to-date and valuable publication and one which merits a place in every hospital library of any size or importance.

The Life of Hamilton Bailey
This is the stirring story of a surgeon, author and teacher of surgery, who maintained an international lustre for British surgery and for the teaching programme at the Royal Northern Hospital from 1930 onwards. In that year, he and McNeill Love joined the staff of the Royal Northern and together they produced one of the surgical best sellers of all times. Bailey's name was, in fact, on the cover of 13 textbooks, two of which—'Demonstrations of Physical Signs in Clinical Surgery' and 'Short Practice of Surgery'—are still being very well revised respectively by Allan Clain and Harding Rains.

Hamilton Bailey's life-style is splendidly etched out in this short biography, which is highly recommended to present post-graduates if only to encourage them to set similar academic and disciplinary standards. It will also be read with affection by an older generation who worked with or were taught by this rugged personality of yesteryear. His memory remains evergreen at the Royal Northern Hospital where operating theatres are named after him and a Bailey Museum brings together some of his possessions.

Antibiotic and Chemotherapy
This is the fourth edition of a splendid textbook, which excited everybody's attention when it first appeared in 1963 and still continues to hold a commanding place in British therapeutics. The authors of the earlier editions had succeeded in bridging the gap between the bacteriology department and the ward, but this bridge would almost certainly have foundered had it remained a one-way corridor, for the authors had no clinical responsibilities and were conscious of their temerity in invading the sphere of therapeutics. For this edition they have at last wisely linked up with Professor Harold Lambert, who brings to it a clinical authority and experience which it could not previously claim. The bridge from the ward to the laboratory is now securely two-way, so this monograph will remain a superb example of British Scholarship at its best.

Proceedings of the Sixth International Conference on Sarcoidosis
The latest International Sarcoidosis Conference was held in Tokyo and the proceedings have just been published. 116 original papers and two symposia are reported. The editors, K. Iwai and Y. Hosoda, have grouped the papers in appropriate chapters dealing with various aspects of the disease. The book clearly represents the up-to-date thought of all the leading world authorities on this confusing multisystem disease.

The Kveim–Siltzbach test and false-positive results in related granulomatous diseases were discussed and most investigators at the conference were in agreement that proper validation of each batch of Kveim reagent made this test a safe, reliable method of differentiating sarcoidosis from other disorders. Work was reported from several centres of attempts to prepare an in vitro Kveim test, but, though full of promise, this is still in an experimental stage. Immunology is one of the expanding fields in sarcoidosis, as in many other branches of medicine. The T-cell energy with B-cell hyper-reactivity was reaffirmed by increasingly sophisticated techniques. Negative skin tests correlated with depression of mitogen-induced lymphocyte transformation. Immunoglobulins and antibodies to various viruses tended to be increased in the serum without correlation with clinical status.

Other granulomatous diseases, both experimentally induced and naturally occurring, were studied. The similarities and differences of sarcoidosis to extrinsic allergic alveolitis, chronic beryllium disease, primary biliary cirrhosis and hepatic granulomatosis were illustrated and underlined. The problems of management of extrapulmonary sarcoidosis—especially in the central nervous system—and of diagnosis of myocardial sarcoidosis are discussed. Separate chapters are devoted to histopathology, epidemiology, childhood occurrence, and therapy of sarcoidosis.

The two symposia were on the aetiology and treatment of sarcoidosis respectively. A lively discussion follows each of them, so that the points upon which the sarcoidologists agree and disagree are clearly outlined. Overall this is an excellent publication which is a must for every aspiring sarcoidologist and should find a place in most general medical reference libraries.
The Life of Hamilton Bailey

Postgrad Med J 1974 50: 727
doi: 10.1136/pgmj.50.589.727-b

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://pmj.bmj.com/content/50/589/727.3.citation

These include:

Email alerting service
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/