As one of the surgeons who introduced Dr Stradling to the art of bronchoscopy and who actually witnessed him achieve his first successful solo bronchoscopy, I am delighted to see this book run to a third edition in 8 years. Regrettably, with inflation, the price has now soared to £15 but at 10 pence an illustration it is still cheaper than photography and the pictures are such that they will never be surpassed or outdated. The book is now essential for all those who have to teach the art of bronchoscopy to new residents and it makes a useful and memorable leaving present for any worthwhile houseman or registrar.

One can forgive the occasional split infinitive—very often they prevent the text becoming too ponderous and 'bronchoscopically speaking' may well be a new form of speech, but why oh why must we continue to be subjected to oat-celled carcinoma and squamous-celled carcinoma when we mean oat cell and squamous carcinoma?

The publishers are to be congratulated on the excellence of their printing and reproduction of illustrations and it is hoped that on this occasion they will profit from their previous experience and print thousands of copies so that one will no longer be told that the edition is sold out within a few years of its becoming available.

Diseases of the Thyroid


In recent years there has been a resurgence of interest in the physiology of the thyroid gland and this has led to improved laboratory techniques for the assessment of thyroid disorders. Diagnosis is more exact and new tests abound. The time is ripe for a book such as this to provide the physician with up-to-date information on the workings and diseases of the thyroid gland. As befits a book by a single author, it is well balanced in material and style and the text presented is supported by good references to recent publications.

The chapter on hyperthyroidism would be easier to follow if Graves' disease were treated separately rather than as one aspect of hyperthyroidism, distracted by the interpositioning of nodular goitre, excess TSH syndrome and other comparative rarities. In critical vein, it is hard to understand why the electrocardiographic changes of hypothyroidism are not better discussed—indeed, a few would agree that surgery for simple goitre is justified, in some patients, to allay anxiety.

These are minor blemishes in a book that ably serves its purpose of providing a clear description of the pathophysiological basis of thyroid diseases and a practical guide to their management. It is well produced, it is not too expensive and not too large and can be recommended to the general physician.

Fractures and Joint Injuries, Volumes I and II


Sir Reginald Watson-Jones was a remarkable man who, in his day, dominated the orthopaedic scene. His influence on fracture treatment was enormous and, despite his skill at lecturing, his pleasure in travelling and his personal dynamism, there can be no doubt that much of this influence came from his famous book. The four editions he himself produced were translated into numerous languages and scored critical superlatives on almost every count; the text was comprehensive, the advice was clear and practical, the production was lavish, and the language aglow with vitality.

It needed courage to attempt a fifth edition. Mr Wilson is a brave man; but he is not foolhardy and he wisely recruited a team of distinguished experts to help. His own contribution is far and away the biggest; he has revised and rewritten large sections and his views are always sound and safe. Each of the other contributors has dealt with a limited section, but because these are many, the result inevitably is uneven. A few chapters are notable (your reviewer particularly enjoyed Mr Colton’s on Ankle Injuries, Professor Kessel’s on The Shoulder and Mr Birnstingl’s on Vascular Injuries), but some of the other contributors seem to have been overwhelmed or overawed by the shade of their predecessor.

The same aura makes it difficult for anyone familiar with the fourth edition to avoid comparing it with this one. Knowledge has certainly been updated, the quality of its communication equally certainly has not (indeed how could it be). The quality of production is a little lower, the price a great deal higher. And so on. Such comparisons, though inevitable, are invidious; the work must be assessed for its own qualities. It is, without doubt, an important and comprehensive account. Those who can afford £45 (not an unreasonable price for two large volumes) will enjoy it and will often refer to it. Above all Mr Wilson deserves to be congratulated on successfully completing a mammoth task.

A Handbook of Treatment


This is yet another multi-author book of medical treatment—which is designed, say its editors, to keep its readers abreast of developments in medicine that have an immediate effect on daily practice. In many respects, they have achieved this goal, and its chapters on drugs in current use are generally up-to-date, and include, for example, atenolol (Tenormin) and bromocriptine. Certain subjects, such as the treatment of neoplasia, wisely deal with general principles of management and discussion of recent advances, rather than giving treatment schedules which are properly the province of the expert oncologist. It is regretful, however, that the editors have not applied consistent editorial policies throughout the book.

For example, the chapter on sexually transmitted diseases quotes references for its statements, but details of the sources are not given either at the end of the chapter or of the book. The success of such a book depends on its authoritativeness, based on the expertise of its contributors. It is a pity that some parts of this volume have been written more as an academic monograph than as an authoritative guide.

Modern Trends in Psychosomatic Medicine—3


This is the third edition of this volume. With each edition the Editor has drawn together a group of authoritative contributors able to make useful statements about the current status of the psychosomatic approach to a variety of diseases. The present volume is larger and more comprehensive than the previous ones and is almost uniformly good. It is difficult to do justice to twenty-four distinct chapters in a brief review but to quote the Editor in his introductory remarks: 'The refreshing modern trend in psychosomatics is to conceptualize the link between psychological factors and the intimate pathophysiological processes of the disease under study, rather than restricting the concept to a purely psychological formulation with a lofty disdain for the means whereby the psychological strain could be translated into physical changes'; the text the original.
This is a book to delight the clinician and influence the sceptic. It can be highly commended to postgraduate medical students in all clinical fields.

The Natural History of Chronic Bronchitis and Emphysema


This expensive book is well worth reading. It will be of great interest to all doctors concerned with chronic bronchitis and emphysema. It is written in beautiful English and this makes it a pleasure to read for its own sake and an example to other 'would be' authors.

Although condensed into 150 pages (plus 100 pages of references and appendices) it is virtually a 'life work'. The background to the book could hardly be more 'O.K.' Written by Professor Charles Fletcher and his colleagues, backed by the Medical Research Council, the statistics done by Sir Richard Doll, there is even a note in the 'introduction' to suggest that it is Chapters 1, 5, 6 and 7 which are the most important.

The major conclusion of the book is that although other factors may play a role, cigarette smoking was found to be the most important environmental factor in the development of chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

Smokers, bombarded with evidence that smoking is bad for their coronary arteries, their peripheral vessels and their stomachs will find nothing here to justify the tobacco smoking which is so harmful to their lungs.

Until self-inflicted illness can be charged to the patient, the National Health Service will be responsible for the treatment of chronic bronchitis and emphysema and while this is so, there is unlikely to be a better book than this to guide the NHS or 'Private' doctor.

Practice, a Handbook of Primary Medical Care


For those who have not yet been introduced to this loose-leaved handbook of primary medical care, it is necessary to explain that it is being published in three instalments; subsequently up-dating sheets and possibly chapters will be appearing at regular intervals. The text is divided into four parts, on the diagnostic process, treatment, continuing care and the complaint. This latter term covers both symptoms and diseases. In primary care, wherever and by whomever it is practised, it may not always be possible to achieve a diagnosis—a point well and clearly made in the introductory chapters. This review covers the second of the three instalments, all of which belongs to the section on 'The Complaint'.

There are chapters on the confused patient, fits and faints, clumsiness, weakness and palsy, numbness and pins and needles (but why not use the more generally accepted term paraesthesia?) Other chapters deal with headache and separately and rightly so pain in the face and pain around the eye; difficulties patients have with sleep, vision and hearing. There is a chapter on the running stuffy nose to complement those previously published on respiratory diseases and a chapter on constipation, complementing the previously issued chapter on diarrhoea, which in turn is augmented by a chapter on rectal bleeding and rectal pain. The chapter on breast lumps also covers the technique of screening and discusses the pros and cons of this aspect of medical practice. Rheumatism in general is covered in one chapter and wrist and hand problems in another (the numbering sequence suggests that other major joints will be covered in chapters to be issued with the third instalment). Lastly there is a chapter on the infertile patient.

The handbook is now beginning to take shape. Nevertheless, one may criticize the way this has been published in three instalments. Once the three have appeared, surely no-one will purchase them one at a time. Why should those who invested in this worthwhile project from the beginning have to wait?

There may be many who are puzzled by the book's title: what is 'primary medical care'? This term not only encompasses general practice as it is called in Britain and Australia, and family practice, the term used in Canada and the U.S.A., but also much of what is practiced by paediatricians, internists and other specialists in those countries where they see non-referred cases. It also covers much of the work done in casualty departments and emergency rooms at a hospital.

Principles of Radiation Therapy


Radiotherapists often feel that their work is poorly understood and underestimated. Some of the blame for this may be attributable to their lack of communication, with medical, nursing, and other colleagues, with regard to its nature and the facts about the effects and problems of administering irradiation.

The author has set himself the task of filling this deficiency, aiming to enunciate principles rather than to describe detailed radiotherapy techniques.

The first thirty-six pages are introductory in nature, but not thereby to be dismissed. The chapter on Discoveries was informative and the historical survey in the chapter on Developments useful in dispensing some of the mythology surrounding the early use of irradiation. The place of chemotherapy in the management of malignant disease is given very little room, perhaps unfairly (for example, in chapter 11, there is no mention given to the success of joint irradiation and chemotherapy in children's malignancy).

The major section of the book is devoted to external beam therapy. It is always difficult to describe complex equipment and its use in words, so diagrams have been used liberally. With the book's small page size, they appear crowded and are sometimes separated by several pages from their explanatory texts.

Other chapters discuss the use of radium sources (though with little indication given for their choice) and of radioisotopes. The latter chapter this reviewer found confusing as it did not distinguish their systemic and local uses. Hospital ward staff are often uncertain as to which patients are 'radioactive', so the instructions about the excreta in all patients 'who have received an isotope' could be misinterpreted. Other short chapters on Radiation Effects, Radiobiology and Radiation Protection provide useful but brief introductions to important subjects. The last of these especially could have been expanded with profit, detailing the 'Maximum Permissible Dose' levels and the strict controls on staff at risk. This would be reassuring to staff, caring for radiotherapy patients, without specialized knowledge, and some hints about how to apply the inverse square law in the ward situation would also seem appropriate.

Psychological Medicine. An Introduction to Psychiatry


This textbook of general psychiatry has long been respected for its clinical wisdom devoid of cant and excessive theory. Dr Storey represents the third generation of co-authors and he has, as the present active author, begun to put his own stamp on this latest edition. The style of the book remains unchanged. The content has been expanded, not so much because of the effect of general up-dating but rather because
Modern Trends in Psychosomatic Medicine—3

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