convincingly demonstrated and the operation made to look easy. The author's method of partial gastrectomy for duodenal and gastric ulcers is beautifully illustrated, as is the closure of the duodenal stump after polyga gastrectomy for the very small duodenal ulcer. It would have been nice to see illustrated the safe closure of the really difficult duodenal stump with a huge ulcer penetrating the head of the pancreas, by rolling the anterior wall of the duodenum into the ulcer crater with successive layers of interrupted silk sutures.

There are good illustrations of Roux-en-Y oesophago-jejunostomy after total gastrectomy for carcinoma, but the operation of radical total gastrectomy, omentectomy, splenectomy and distal pancreatectomy with division of the left gastric and splenic arteries at their origins is not shown. No doubt these omissions could be corrected in subsequent editions. The section depicting pyloroplasty, particularly the Finney pyloroplasty and jejunal interposition are very good, but the section dealing with that useful manoeuvre of 'Kocherisation' of the duodenum is less convincing.

At £50, this volume with its 506 colour photographs is good value for money, but it will prove too expensive for the average medical student. The surgeon in training will learn the techniques so well illustrated in this book by assisting his 'chief' in the operating theatre (there is no other way of doing this) and so will have little need for it. He will find it easier to understand a new or unfamiliar operation by studying the line diagrams in the standard works on operative surgery, such as Robb and Smith, which will also warn him of the pitfalls that beset upper abdominal surgery—obviously not illustrated in this volume.

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Clinical Radiology for Medical Students


The volume of knowledge in radiology is now so great, even greater if the subject includes other imaging methods, that it is almost impossible even for the experienced specialist to know it all. The selection of material for undergraduates to study is thus difficult indeed, but the authors have achieved wide coverage.

The authors have divided each chapter, in which each section, on chest, abdomen, musculo-skeletal system, skull and spine, alimentary tract and urogenital system, starts with introductory paragraphs, and follows with a series of tables. Each of these takes a type of radiological appearance and analyses the causes, indicating the major differences. The illustrations are all superb examples, well-reproduced and cover an extensive range of common conditions. The vascular and central nervous systems are dealt with in more briefy, but common conditions are illustrated.

There is a short chapter on other imaging procedures (ultra-sound, scintigrapy and computed tomography and some of their indications) without going into detail of the mechanisms of image formation. This also looks to the future with digital and nuclear magnetic resonance techniques. Ultra-sound and CT images are also included in the system chapters where appropriate.

Any student reading this book will certainly get a good idea of what radiology is all about. Most of the illustrations are sufficiently dramatic to hold the attention and, hopefully, to stimulate further interest in the subject and its relevance to the clinical situation. It is very good value and should prove popular.

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The Conduction System of the Heart


Twelve years ago, I had the happy task to review M. J. Davies' monograph 'Pathology of the Conducting Tissue of the Heart'. At that time, it was an up-to-date account of the topic, bound in a compact little volume. Since that time an immense amount of interest in the subject has been generated and advances in electrophysiology and surgery in congenital heart disease have taken place which in turn has lead to extensive morphological studies of the conduction system and therefore publication, this time in a much larger volume, is timely. On this occasion, Professor Davies has been joined by two distinguished co-authors.

The book is divided into 13 chapters. The first 4 deal with a historical review, the anatomy, blood supply and embryology of the specialized tissue. Considerable space is given to the conduction system in the various forms of congenital heart disease, which have been grouped according to modern concepts with an up-to-date nomenclature.

The remaining 8 chapters are concerned with congenital complete heart block and topics such as pre-excitation and atrial arrhythmias, as well as permanent atrio-ventricular block and the pathology of bundle branch block. In addition, conduction disturbances found in myocardial infarcts and in systemic diseases including myocarditis, connective tissue disorders and cardiomyopathy have also been included. The book concludes with the role of the conduction system in sudden death. Thus, all aspects of the specialized system, both in health and disease, are considered.

Controversial topics such as the embryology are dealt with authoritatively and although personal views are often given prominence, views of other authorities are considered. For example, in the section dealing with development of the internodal atrial myocardium, the concept that discrete pathways course through atrial tissues, either during development or in developed hearts, has not been substantiated by one of the present authors, yet the worker, who described these pathways, is cited.

The book is richly illustrated and the photographs are of high technical standard. The drawings are helpful in elucidating difficult points in the text. The various topics are well reviewed. The style is eminently readable and this book is clearly written by experts for experts and those who aspire to becoming expert.

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Herpes: the Facts


Since I first heard Dr Oates lecture on Herpes virus infections some 15 years ago, I have always hoped he would write a book on the subject. Now he has produced this up-to-date account, written in clear, non-technical language which will be easily understood by the intelligent lay reader. The author's wealth of experience, empathy and good humour are evident throughout.

After a general survey, there follows a discussion of the nature of the virus, its complicated natural history and interaction with the host. The chapters on prevention and treatment offer the right combination of scientific medicine and sound, practical common-sense. Separate chapters dealing with the relationship of the virus to pregnancy and to cervical cancer should go a long way to dispel the prevalent worries and misconceptions of many sufferers. The last chapter summarizes the main points in the form of answers to the most common questions raised by patients.

This paperback can be unreservedly recommended, not only to patients but also to all those health care professionals and teachers who have to cope with the mass of anxiety that has resulted from recent publicity. Indeed, most doctors and postgraduates would benefit from reading this book. It would be sensible to buy several copies as they will have a habit of disappearing from the shelf.

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The Conduction System of the Heart

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