The most significant advances in the specialty over the last ten years have been in endocrinology, oncology and assisted fertility. These changes are covered adequately in this new Edition for the needs of undergraduates. Those working for higher examinations will need to read further and more widely in specialist reviews. Is this book aimed, therefore, at undergraduates or postgraduates? The price at £45 is most certainly more than most undergraduates will want to pay and postgraduates will need to read more widely about recent advances. As most libraries will already have the previous Edition of this book on their shelves it would, I think be difficult to justify purchase of this latest Edition.

C.S.W. Wright
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Terence Ryan’s friendly little book on the management of leg ulceration has now gone into a second edition, four years after its first appearance. It is still easy to read and provides a straightforward didactic approach to its subject which is ideal for doctors in training and general practitioners, who want rapid and practical advice on ulcer management. The book is written by a dermatologist and therefore is strong on the conservative management of ulceration and its associated skin complications while it is less convincing on the surgical management of ulcers and the subsequent corrective venous surgery.

While there is a good bibliography at the end of the book, all statements in it are unreferenced and there is no attempt to discuss the relative merits of different forms of treatment and their results. This book is therefore the simple man’s guide to leg ulceration, and it succeeds admirably at this level. Every general practice and leg ulcer clinic should purchase a copy.

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This is another book of multiple choice questions in general medicine which has been prepared by two Australian physicians with the needs of examination candidates very much in mind. In addition to 200 questions embracing a wide range of general medical topics there is a large section devoted to explaining the answers with back-up references, albeit somewhat parochial.

The multiple choice questions have been well prepared and well researched and present a very fair challenge. Some of the answers, however, are rather idiosyncratic. The use, for example, of methoxamine to combat ventricular fibrillation is certainly not a recognised indication in the United Kingdom. I would also cavil at the statement that ventricular bigemini may be associated with mitral valve prolapse. This would imply the subjection of every patient with ventricular ectopics to echocardiography in the absence of any other indication. A second problem is occasional carelessness in phraseology. An abnormal Schilling test may not be corrected by the administration of intrinsic factor in patients with post gastrectomy megaloblastic anaemia. In some patients, however, it is. The statement that an ‘abnormal Schilling’s test observed both with and without the administration of intrinsic factor is found in patients with post gastrectomy megaloblastic anaemia’ is therefore impossible to answer correctly.

In general however I would recommend the book to candidates about to embark upon the multiple choice question part of the M.R.C.P. as it will provide useful practice. I would however have liked to have seen the book divided into chapters and above all for an index to have been included. Without these aids it is difficult to retrieve information without the chore of ploughing through the whole book. Perhaps in subsequent editions the authors may rectify these omissions.

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This is an interesting and stimulating book, sufficiently interesting to be read on holiday in France. The 36 contributors have between them put forward many ideas and concepts that are probably not drawn together in any other single volume.

Anyone seeking a well-structured, comprehensive text on neuropsychological rehabilitation will, I am afraid, be disappointed. There is some overlap between chapters, though this often highlights the different opinions or approaches and is a strong point, not a weakness of the book. One minor criticism is a tendency of many authors to use as references for contentious or exciting topics articles that are totally unpublished or virtually inaccessible.

The third part of the book, which is supposed to review rehabilitation in different countries could well have been omitted. The 90 pages could either be removed, reducing the cost, or could have been used to cover other aspects of the subject.

The book should be of great interest to anyone concerned with the management of patients with brain damage. Though most work has been conducted on patients with stroke or head injury, the ideas will apply to
The Management of Leg Ulcers

K.G. Burnand

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