Books received

- Bailey and Love's Short Practice of Surgery*. 18th edn. Revised by A. J. HARDING RAINS and H. DAVID. Pp. xii+1370, illustrated. H. K. Lewis, London, 1981. £23.00.
- Baillière's Medical Transparencies. Disease from the Tropics*. Set 1 (23 slides). Set 2 (24 slides). By A. D. M. BRYCESON and V. E. ANDSELL. Paperback with slides mounted in plastic wallet. 10 pp. per set. Baillière Tindall, London, 1981. £18.50+VAT £1.78 (not sold singly).
- Bladder Cancer. A Series of Workshops on the Biology of Human Cancer*. Report no. 13. Edited by P. SKRABANEK and A. WALSH. UICC Technical Report Series, vol. 60,

- Pp. 192. International Union against Cancer, Geneva, 1981. Sw. Fr. 32.00.
- Boundary and Space. An Introduction to the Work of D. W. Winnicott*. By MADELEINE DAVIS and DAVID WALLBRIDGE. Pp. xiv+196, H. Karnac, London, 1981. £9.00.
- Clinical Investigation of Respiratory Disease*. Edited by T. J. H. CLARK. Pp. xiv+526, illustrated. Chapman and Hall, London, 1981. £22.50.
- Children who have Fits*. By G. P. McMULLIN. Pp. 64. Duckworth, London, 1981. £3.95.

Books reviewed

Children Who Have Fits

G. P. McMULLIN, pp. 64. Duckworth, London, 1981. £3.95.

The provision of factual data to help parents understand more about a child's disorder seems self-evidently useful. Dr McMullin's booklet entitled *Children Who Have Fits* sets out to do this. Unfortunately, the result is a mixture of good clinical description suitable for parents or doctors (although it is puzzling why incontinence is omitted as occurring in grand mal seizures until the summary on p. 57) and a text sometimes more appropriate to a professional treatise than for a work intended for potentially anxious parents. An example is a complex discussion on prognosis based on the statistical data (pp. 51-52) and the use of jargon like 'focal lesion'. There are also major omissions. There are no indications where families could get help and advice if that already being provided does not seem to be answering their needs. There is nothing concerning possible problems likely to be met during education, nor about the different problems arising during adolescence.

A rather bland optimism evident throughout would be more helpful if linked to clear and supportive information.

The choice of drugs for different types of seizures is detailed and this again seems inappropriate unless we envisage a time when parents will need to check on their paediatricians. Regrettably, I feel that a potentially useful shot has missed its target.

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Clinical Heart Disease

By SAMUEL ORAM. 2nd edn. Pp. viii+953, illustrated. William Heinemann Medical Books, 1981. £50.00.

This second edition of a well-established Textbook of Cardiology has been rewritten to take account of the important advances in technology and practice of cardiology that have taken place since the first edition was published in 1971.

Many cardiologists keep themselves informed of current cardiological practice by the numerous monographs on various aspects of this discipline. This book will therefore be particularly orientated as a practical guide and reference book for the general clinician, the physician with an interest in cardiology and for students undertaking postgraduate training and postgraduate examinations.

This book is founded on a strong clinical bias and includes sufficient information of modern investigatory procedures, particularly echocardiography and isotope studies, without over-burdening the general reader with the finer point of these technologies. At the end of each chapter there is a well-balanced reference section, including many recent publications and a list of salient features of particular interest to be emphasized from the foregoing chapter.

The book has been liberally endowed with many figures to amplify the text, but the quality of some of the X-rays could have been improved. Clearly one detects that some of the X-rays and ECGs have been drawn from Dr Oram's vast cardiological practice and therefore suffer from the lack of advances in modern-day presentation of such figures.

In a day and age when many new drugs and trials are constantly reported, this book has certainly reported many recent results.

This book is an essential publication fulfilling all the traditions of British cardiology, particularly with its strong clinical bias. It can be warmly recommended as a reference book for the clinician, the general physician with an interest in cardiology and for those studying for higher degrees. At £50, however, this price may slightly restrict its circulation.

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A Colour Atlas of Paediatric Surgical Diagnosis

By L. SPITZ, G. M. STEINER and R. B. ZACHARY. Pp. 240 illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1981. £30.00.

This new atlas consists of 772 illustrations, the majority of which are colour plates. Almost one-quarter of the illustra-