exception of the few black and white photomicrographs, which are unsatisfactory, the book is well produced and an easy read. There is a reliable index and over 1100 references in all including nearly 300 on the medical treatment of peptic disease alone. At the price, this book is worth having.

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Infectious Diseases

By PHILIP D. WELSBY. Pp. ix + 297, illustrated. MTP Press, Lancaster, 1981. £14.95

This book is intended as a clinical introduction to infectious diseases suitable for medical students and junior doctors, especially for those intending to go into general practice. General chapters on diseases caused by the main types of infecting agents are followed by 'system' or 'presentation' based chapters, on respiratory infections, jaundice, pyrexia of unknown origin (PUO) skin manifestations of infection, infections of the central nervous system and vomiting and diarrhoea. The closing chapters are on prevention, practical procedures and notification.

It may well be a criticism of the medical educational system in Britain rather than the author but the basic aspects of host-parasite relationships and pathogenicity are treated at too elementary a level for the enquiring medical student or doctor, a level more suitable for laymen or perhaps ancillary health workers. On the other hand, the amount of information given about clinical problems would not, except in a few instances, allow the book to be used as a guide to clinical management. This is especially true of the fragmentary data on antimicrobial drugs and of the chapter on vomiting and diarrhoea which gives little help to the beginner in guiding him to a firm management policy.

The other bothersome thing about this book is the strangely dated flavour on both scientific and clinical fronts. To give a few examples, the huge and important issue of antibiotic resistance is scarcely touched upon. In the chapter on PUO non-invasive methods are just mentioned but the idea of diagnostic laparotomy is mooted. In fact, the combination of newer and old investigation has quite transformed the management of PUO and it should now be rare indeed to contemplate laparotomy if none of these investigations point to an intra-abdominal cause. Again, the chapter on vomiting and diarrhoea makes no mention of the several easily available electrolyte preparations for oral use which mostly make home-made mixtures, with all the risks of mistakes in their formulation, unnecessary, and the WHO method of oral rehydration therapy is not mentioned.

The rebirth of infectious diseases as an accepted and important discipline in internal medicine, and the tremendous advances in this field in recent years, reveal a real need for a good short book to supplement the classic large texts. It is a great pity that this book is too scrappy and old-fashioned to fulfil this need.

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Problems in Cardiology

By CHRISTOPHER F. P. WHARTON. Problems in Practice Series. Pp. 158, illustrated. MTP Press, Lancaster, 1981. £7.95.

This 158-page book is based on the personal experience of a physician with an interest in cardiology who works in a District General Hospital. It is compact, with a good index and is well laid out.

In a book of this nature, the author inevitably has had to make a number of rather didactic statements. Areas of controversy are indicated but it would have been much more valuable to have developed these areas more fully. It would, for instance, have been of interest to discuss the use of the Korotkov sounds for the measurement of the diastolic blood pressure; the author uses the 5th phase rather than the 4th phase. It would perhaps have been useful to indicate that practice differs and that under certain conditions there is a significant difference between the 4th phase and the 5th

phase; at a time when this confusion exists there is surely a very strong argument that both phases should be recorded. There are several other important areas where further discussion might have avoided statements which may not be generally accepted; after an uncomplicated myocardial infarction, a return to a normal existence after 6 months is by no means now common practice. It is also somewhat misleading to suggest that left main stem coronary artery disease can be recognized by the patient's symptoms. There are several areas where terminology is rather unfortunate as, for instance, the use of the term bacterial endocarditis rather than infective endocarditis and the term dysrhythmia rather than arrhythmia. In spite of the criticisms however, I think the family practitioner will find this book informative and helpful.

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Radionuclide Tracer Techniques in Haematology

By C. S. BOWRING. Pp. 140, illustrated. Butterworths, London, 1981. £8.50.

This short book, not assisted by its cumbersome title, is well written and is to be recommended to those wishing to undertake isotope studies in haematology. The first two chapters are concerned with basic physics and instrumentation. The following six chapters give a systematic account of the different measurements used in haematology. There are four appendices which give short accounts of labelling procedures, the derivation of Dornhurst's equation for cell survival, the calibration of imaging equipment and radioisotope techniques.

The units are in Becquerels, but in a rapidly advancing subject it is inevitable that most recent techniques such as Indium labelling of granulocytes do not receive adequate cover. The book should prove useful to physicists working in Haematology and to candidates for the F.I.M.L.S. and the Final M.R.C.Path. in Haematology. Rather more clinical flavour would be welcome to many. However, the more deterrent to the purchase of this useful little book is the price, which at £8.50 seems steepish but perhaps understandable.

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Clinics in Haematology, vol. 10, no. 3. Thrombosis

Edited by C. R. M. PRENTICE. June 1981. Pp. 438, illustrated. W. B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia and Toronto, 1981. £10.75.

A rapid acceleration of interest and activity over the last decade has led to the emergence of thrombosis/haemostasis as a distinct scientific and clinical discipline. This book, although an issue of the serial Clinics in Haematology, will appeal to a broader audience than haematologists alone. Not intended to provide exhaustive coverage of the subject, this need having been satisfied by the recent publication of several textbooks, the issue succeeds admirably in its aim of bringing the reader up to date on the state of the art by highlighting recent advances in basic sciences and clinical practice. It is perhaps inevitable in a collection of monographs of this sort that the contributions of different authors overlap in places, sometimes to a marked degree—Dr Turpie's account of antiplatelet therapy for example, duplicates much of the information on clinical trials which appears in later chapters on myocardial infarction and cerebrovascular disease—and there are discrepancies of fact between different accounts of the same subject. Prominence is given to prostaglandins, although one wonders whether the prostacyclin story will stand the test of time, and there is a tendency for hypothesis to emerge as fact, even if authors attempt to cover their tracks by allusion to 'further work being urgently needed'. But these are minor faults, and the volume as a whole strikes a useful balance between speculation and sound clinical recommendations. It will be a valuable source of reference, both to laboratory workers and clinicians in diverse fields.

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