Books received

- Annual Review of Medicine: Selected Topics in the Clinical Sciences, Vol. 34, 1983.* Edited by W. P. CREGER, C. H. COGGINS and E. W. HANCOCK. Pp. 577, illustrated. Annual Reviews, Palo Alto, California, 1983. \$30.00.
- Autonomic failure: a textbook of clinical disorders of the autonomic nervous system.* Edited by SIR ROGER BANNISTER. Pp. xiv + 666, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Toronto, 1983. £45.00.
- Beta Blockade in the 1980s: Focus on Atenolol. Proceedings of an International Symposium, Monte Carlo 7-10th June, 1982 Drugs, Supplement 2, Vol. 25, March 1983.* Edited by J. I. S. ROBERTSON, N. M. KAPLAN, A. D. S. CALDWELL and T. M. SPEIGHT. Pp. ix + 346, illustrated. Adis Press, New York, Tokyo, Mexico, Sydney, Auckland, Hong Kong, 1983. Price not given.
- The Health Care Manual: a Family Guide to Self-Care and Home Medicines.* Edited by JOHN FRY and GORDON FRYERS with contributions from ERIC GAMBRILL, ALISTAIR MOULDS, GILLIAM STRUBE and KEN YOUNG. Pp. vii + 320. MTP Press, Lancaster, Boston, The Hague, 1983.

- Hospice care. Principles and Practice.* Edited by C. A. CORR and D. M. CORR. Pp. xix + 364, illustrated. Faber and Faber, London, 1983. £4.95 (paperback).
- Modern Emergency Department Practice.* Edited by DAVID K. BROOKS and ANTHONY J. HARROLD. Pp. xii + 431, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London, 1983. £50.00.
- The Nature of General Family Practice. 583 Clinical Vignettes in Family Medicine. An Alternative Approach to Syllabus Development.* Edited by W. E. FABB and J. R. MARSHALL. Pp. xx + 660. MTP Press, Lancaster, Boston, The Hague, 1983. £19.95.
- Postgraduate Medicine.* By I. J. T. DAVIES. 4th edn. Pp. x + 563, illustrated. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books), London, 1983. £17.00.
- Sudden Death in Infancy. The 'cot death' syndrome.* By BERNARD KNIGHT. Pp. 172, illustrated. Faber and Faber, London, 1983. £3.50 (paperback).
- 100 Short Cases for the MRCP.* By K. GUPTA. Pp. xii + 106. Chapman and Hall, London, New York, 1983. £4.75.

Book reviews

An Atlas of Oxygen-cardiorespirograms in Newborn Infants

By RENATE HUCH, ALBERT HUCH and GÖSTA RÖOTH. Pp. 257, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1983. £25.00.

The non-invasive measurement of transcutaneous oxygen, heart rate and respiratory rate is now commonplace in neonatal intensive care units. Little notice has been taken of the patterns of change interrelating with each other. This atlas is more important as a background thesis of the normal variation than as a book that the neonatal clinician can immediately refer to in order to get practical advice. The combined experience of Renate and Albert Huch and Gösta Rooth are presented with the analyses of these parameters in 3000 term newborns in the first week of life. Only the occasional recording is from a baby of less than 3 kg in birthweight and only 3 out of the 3000 are in infants less than 2 kg. Therefore, although this book is scholarly in its presentation, it is of limited use in the neonatal setting where it is in general preterm infants or sick full-term infants that are monitored in this fashion. I would welcome a follow-up atlas from these authors on the variations that they see in the clinical setting.

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Babyhood

By PENELOPE LEACH. 2nd edn., revised and expanded. Pp. 579, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1983. £4.95.

Just my luck to read Ms Leach's book when my children have all become teenagers and I am well on in general practice. 'Babyhood' may be intended for 'parent experts', but will do just as well for doctors, nurses, and health visitors, or their student counterparts.

The research is formidable and whilst Ms Leach allows us to know

her own leanings, she acquaints us with the opinions of classical theoreticians such as Skinner and Chomsky in language development, in contrast to Kagan's newer ideas, or gives us more down-to-earth warnings as in Gairdner's 'The Fate of the Foreskin'. Nevertheless, she is not afraid to bring the book alive with anecdote, or a uniquely individual and most moving account of a child's day through it's mother's eyes, to prepare grandmother for a day with her grand-child.

Ms Leach almost counsels the reader to break vicious circles and allay guilts and fears in such minefields as toilet training, not sleeping, or refusal to eat 'properly', whilst accurately informing her on subjects such as food values to show how very nearly good enough children's anxiety-provoking food fads can be.

It is a long book at over 550 pages, sometimes hard reading. After all that, one is not being told what to do or what to think, but rather more just put in the picture. It must be valued by mothers—but ones with time to read, and for whom reading is easy. It could do with being required student reading too. I wish it had been around 15 years ago.

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A Colour Atlas of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery

By CHARLES GRANT CLARK. Pp. 168, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1983.

Professor Clark is to be congratulated on the excellence of his Colour Atlas of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery. The photographs are of high quality as is their reproduction in print. The cardia and the oesophageal hiatus of the diaphragm are always difficult to photograph, however well they are surgically displayed. Nevertheless, the sections on vagotomy and hiatus hernia repair are

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 polya 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 the 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

By K. T. EVANS, N. F. BUTLER, I. H. GRAVELLE and G. M. ROBERTS. Pp. x + 138, illustrated. Butterworth Scientific, London, Boston, Sydney, Wellington, Durban, Toronto, 1983. £7.95.

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 of this book have used a format in which each section, on chest, abdomen, musculo-skeletal system, skull and spine, alimentary tract and urino-genital 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 more briefly, but common conditions are illustrated.

There is a short chapter on other imaging procedures (ultra-sound, scintigraphy 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

By M. J. DAVIES, R. H. ANDERSON and A. E. BECKER. Pp. x + 337, illustrated. Butterworth, London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1983. £40.00.

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 led 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

By J. K. OATES. Pp. 123, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1983. £1.50.

Since I first heard Dr Oates lecture on Herpes virus infections some 10 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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