Books received

Apartheid and Health. Part I. Report of an International Conference held at Brazzaville, People's Republic of the Congo, 16-20 November 1981. Part II. The Health Implications of Racial Discrimination and Social Inequality: an Analytical Report to the Conference. Pp. 258. World Health Organization, Geneva, 1983. Sw. fr. 29.00.

Basic Skills in Clinical Medicine: A Guide to Ward Procedures for Students and House Officers. By KENNETH C. CALMAN and CHRISTOPHER D. HANNING. 2nd edn. (1st edn. published as *Basic Skills for Surgical Housemen*). Pp. vi + 155, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne and New York, 1983. £4.95.

Essential Clinical Microbiology: an Introductory Text. By E. M. COOKE and G. L. GIBSON. Pp. viii + 176, illustrated. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1983. £6.95.

Information Resources Guide to Words and Phrases used in the Pharmaceutical Industry. Compiled and edited by Peter Hamilton. Pp. iv + 43. Gothard House Publications, Henley-on-Thames, 1983. £6.70.

Medical Diagnosis, from Student to Clinician. By JANET GALE and PHILIP MARSDEN. Pp. xii + 218. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York and Toronto, 1983. £17.50.

Modern Drug Treatment in Tuberculosis. By J. D. ROSS and N. W. HORNE. 6th edn. Pp. 123. The Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JE, 1983. £3.000 (plus 50p postage and packing) (plus £1.20 surface mail overseas).

Pearce's Medical and Nursing Dictionary and Encyclopaedia. By EVELYN PEARCE. 15th edn. Pp. 443. Faber, London, Boston, 1983. £6.95.

The Physician: A Professional under Stress. Edited by JOHN CALLAN. Pp. xiii + 397. Appleton-Century-Crofts, Connecticut, 1983. £24.25.

Primary Membership Video Series. A Course Designed to Help Candidates Prepare for the MRCP (Part 1) Examination. By JOHN DAVIES. 22 Video Tape Lectures + M.C.Q. book. Dr John Davies, Postgraduate Medical Teaching Services, 34 Ivere Drive, Barnet, Herts EN5 1AS, 1983. £1.350 (22 Cassettes + 10 M.C.Q. books) (exclusive of V.A.T., postage and packing).

Books reviews

The Basic Neurology of Speech and Language

By MICHAEL L. E. ESPIR and F. CLIFFORD ROSE. 3rd edn. Pp. ix + 213, illustrated. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Melbourne, Boston, 1983. £9.50.

The strength of this established textbook lies in the selection of basic neurology relevant to speech therapists. Emphasis is laid upon diseases involving the vocal tracts and it is not surprising that the outstanding chapter is that on dysarthria. The two eminent authors published the first edition of *The Basic Neurology of Speech and Language* in 1970 and made significant personal contributions to speech pathology in the 1960s. Since then their interests have diverged markedly and the wisdom of attempting a third edition without another author more deeply steeped in recent developments in aphasiology may be questioned. Speech and the comprehension and formulation of language are physiological acts. All too often they are described in anatomical terms without reference to the plasticity of the nervous system, the nature of the insult, therapy and prognosis. An insult to a particular part of the cortex or subcortex does not necessarily produce an identical clinical syndrome irrespective of the patient's age. The text varies in clarity with some unnecessarily convoluted sentences and the attempt to explain the acquired alexias without diagrams must be daunting for any student.

As with the earlier editions, the book is relevant to many disciplines including postgraduate students in paediatrics, psychiatry, psychology and linguistics who need to acquire a basis of neurology as applied to the fundamentals of speech pathology, but those concerned with teaching speech therapy will still find it necessary to advise their students to read American textbooks such as Benson (1979) and Segalowitz (1983) in order to understand aphasia and seek elsewhere for practical instruction in speech therapy and the technology of communication aids.

References

- BENSON, D.F. (1979) *Aphasia, Alexia and Agraphia*. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh.
SEGALOWITZ, S.J. (1983) *Language Function and Brain Organization*. Academic Press, London.

E. M. R. CRITCHLEY
Preston Royal Infirmary
Preston, Lancs

Cardiovascular Disease. Integrated Clinical Science Series.

Edited by JOHN R. HAMPTON. Pp. xi + 276, illustrated. William Heinemann Medical Books, London, 1983. £7.95.

John Hampton and his friends, mostly from Nottingham, have done a good deed in producing this book. It is well written; the electrocardiograms have shape not morphology, thrombosis is nicely described as helpful or harmful solidification of the blood. The individual contributions have been 'integrated' to make a uniformly entertaining and instructive work.

The series aims to link the science and practice of medicine for students. Cardiovascular disease lends itself particularly well to this approach. For example, basic cellular processes are related to myocardial performance, and thence to the symptoms, signs and management of heart failure; similarly congenital heart disease is related to embryology. Not every chapter succeeds, the mandatory account of rheumatic heart disease would be better refashioned and retitled valve disease.

The teaching is generally correct—areas for heart murmurs are misleading, diagnostic stress testing and cardiac enzymes are overvalued, patients and not their arrhythmias require treatment. Some views are alarming: the character of the arterial pulse

'neither reliable nor important' (an educated finger on the carotid can usually differentiate aortic sclerosis and stenosis); systolic murmurs are 'unlikely to be important' if they vary with posture, are not associated with symptoms or cardiomegaly and if the chest X-ray is normal (what about *maladie de Roger*, mitral valve prolapse and bicuspid aortic valve?).

The pictures are excellent and the price reasonable. Many students will learn from this book but it lacks references and they will need a more traditional text to look things up.

M. PETCH
Papworth Hospital,
Cambridge CB3 8RE

Diagnosis and Management of Acute Poisoning. Diagnosis and Management Series

By ALEXANDER T. PROUDFOOT. Pp. viii + 237. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Boston, Melbourne, 1982. £7.50.

Diagnosis and Management of Acute Poisoning admirably fulfils the objective of its author in giving highly practical help to junior doctors who are dealing with a poisoning problem. Having classified the types of poisoning; Dr Proudfoot then deals thoroughly with diagnosis and treatment. At the end of each section the salient points are concisely emphasized and these summaries alone would be of great help to the young medical officer who may have to make decisions quickly and alone. The last and largest section of the book lists in alphabetical order many poisonous and potentially poisonous agents. Help with diagnosis and treatment for specific situations is readily available here. The compact book also contains information about the Poison Service in the U.K. and a useful appendix relating to the slang of addicts.

R. R. WATKIN,
Guy's Hospital,
London SE1 9RT

Diagnosis and Management of Renal and Urinary Diseases. Diagnosis and Management Series

By J. MICHAEL BOULTON-JONES, J. DOUGLAS BRIGGS and TIMOTHY B. HARGREAVE. Pp. vii + 309, illustrated. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, London Edinburgh, Boston, Melbourne, 1982. £10.50.

This book sets out to provide a concise account of the clinical features and management of disorders of the kidney and urinary tract. It is aimed at clinicians working in or out of hospitals and at the MRCP candidate.

The subject is divided into 20 chapters dealing with anatomy and physiology, urinary tract investigations, primary renal disorders and the kidney in systemic diseases, renal failure and renal replacement therapy. The last seven chapters provide a useful synopsis of urological disorders and their management. Each chapter concludes with a list of points of emphasis.

In a book of such wide scope and small size, the authors need to be dogmatic and although their opinions are usually well-placed there are inevitably a few points of view with which other nephrologists would disagree. For example, it is not true to say that membranous nephropathy does not recur in transplanted kidneys.

The Scottish origin of the book is betrayed by the expression 'outwith this range' but the selection criteria for dialysis which follow reflect the generally gloomy provision throughout the U.K. and would not be accepted in most other Western countries.

There are few important omissions, although it is surprising to see no mention of casts in a detailed section on examination and microscopy of urine.

Some references for further reading would have been valuable, especially in the chapters on physiology, glomerulopathies and drugs.

On the whole it can be said that the authors have achieved their

objectives. This is a readable book providing a comprehensive introduction to clinical aspects of renal and urinary tract disorders. There is an excellent chapter on chronic renal failure and the chapter on primary glomerulopathies provides a helpful outline of an often confusing subject. This book can be warmly recommended to candidates revising for higher examinations and provides a useful background for the practising general physician and even the embryo specialist.

B. H. B. ROBINSON,
East Birmingham Hospital,
Birmingham B9 5ST.

Pediatrics

Edited by HAROLD M. MAURER. Pp. xvii + 1077, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London and Melbourne, 1983. £28.00.

This new textbook of paediatrics is modestly designated as 'intermediate' in size by its editor but nevertheless runs to over 1,000 pages. In common with many comparable editions it is a multiply authored work of which all but five of the 49 contributors are affiliated to the Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. It is intended to focus on important and common problems for the medical student, house officer and practitioner (in the American sense). The list of chapters is comprehensive with sections on the disorders of each major system. In keeping with the present day concept of the subject, whole chapters are also devoted to adolescent health, primary care, social and emotional problems and the prevention of injury. The book is completed by three useful sections on paediatric radiology, drug therapy and normal laboratory values. The text is reasonably well written, fully illustrated with figures and diagrams and referenced with commendably short lists at the end of each chapter. There are however some irritating features. Is it really logical to consider the whole of growth and development before the newly born? How many paediatricians really consider acute glaucoma, Caffey's disease and scurvy in the differential diagnosis of infantile colic? Moreover, should paediatric dermatology, although extremely well-written and illustrated, command 117 pages when the whole of paediatric surgery is dismissed in 30? Why is there such extensive cover of Group A streptococcal disease whereas Group B is scarcely mentioned in the text and not at all in the index.

It is difficult to believe that this book will prove to be a serious rival for the larger more comprehensive texts intended for the aspiring or practising paediatrician. It does however provide a readable and comprehensive overview of the subject for those who require something more than is offered by the short, cryptic handbook. It is therefore commended to medical graduates in disciplines other than paediatrics, medical students and nurses as a useful addition to their personal or institutional libraries.

D. BARLTROP,
Westminster Children's Hospital,
London SW1P 2NS

Postgraduate Medicine

By I. J. T. DAVIES. 4th edn. Pp. x + 563, illustrated. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd., London, 1983. £17.00.

There is no doubt that this is an extremely useful and relatively cheap book. The intentions of authors do not always match up with needs of readers, but the ambitious aim to provide a readable text book has, I think, been achieved. I have used it to revise and update subjects in which I am rusty and have scrutinised areas which I think I know something about. I cannot judge the former, but with regard to the latter I think fair and balanced presentations are given. Perhaps it does not work for the small print requirements of jobbing physicians: I could not find anything on orf which we occasionally see in Devon and there was nothing on hyperostosis frontalis interna—a common and ill-understood condition. To be fair, Cecil's textbook did not deal with these diseases either! Both I and my