Books received

The BTM Programme (Body, Tone, Maintenance). By DONALD MCLAREN. Pp. 127, illustrated. Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, 1984. £1.50.

Case Studies in Paediatrics. By DAVID J. FIELD and JOHN STROOBANT. Pages unnumbered (Pp. iii + 84). Pitman Books, London, 1984. £5.95.

The Incomplete Houseman. A Guide for Medical Students and First-year Doctors. By M. J. ATKINS. Pp. 55. H. K. Lewis, London, 1983. £3.00.

Progress in Migraine Research. Vol. 2. Edited by F. CLIFFORD ROSE. Pp. xx + 292, illustrated. Pitman, London, 1984. £35.00.

Recent Advances in Paediatrics. Vol. 7. Edited by ROY MEADOW. Pp. ix + 234, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1984. £18.00.

Vindictio. A Defence of the Experimental Method. By RICHARD LOWER. Facsimile edition, limited to 250 numbered and signed copies edited by Kenneth Dewhurst. Pp. xxxiv + 314. Sandford Publications, Oxford, 1983. £25.00.

Book reviews

Anaesthesia: Review 2

Edited by LEON KAUFMAN. Pp. 228, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh. 1983. £12.00.

This is a book of just over 200 pages containing 15 chapters reviewing recent work in areas of interest to anaesthetists. Most chapters are quite short and easily readable in a few minutes. Topics covered include: advances in medicine relevant to anaesthetists; pulmonary complications following general anaesthesia; mechanisms of general anaesthesia; mechanisms of local anaesthesia; principles of use of extradural and intrathecal narcotics; recent advances in paediatric anaesthesia and intensive care; and non-invasive monitoring in anaesthesia.

The book includes a good deal of theoretical detail and this will particularly recommend it to candidates for the Primary and Final Fellowship examinations and to those consultants who teach them.

Criticisms are that I find the inclusion in mid-sentence of names of authors of original articles and their year of publication disruptive. I much prefer a small numeral as a mark of a reference. Also I think that some of the chapters would benefit from the inclusion of occasional diagrams or illustrations. There are only three paragraphs on anaesthesia for laser surgery and these are found in the chapter on 'Recent advances in paediatric anaesthesia and intensive care' and apply to ENT work. Laser surgery is an important new topic and requires much more detailed treatment. A general review of lasers available for surgery, with a more detailed review of methods of anaesthesia for ENT laser surgery, should be included in a future edition.

In summary this book is readable, full of useful up-to-date information and is reasonably priced. It is recommended reading for all anaesthetists but especially for candidates for the F.F.A.R.C.S. examinations.

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synthetic peptide vaccines, tumour immunology, immunity to influenza and the IgA proteases of pathogenic bacteria.

The chapter on malaria reviews the antigens present in the various stages of the plasmodium life cycle, the nature and effectiveness of the immune response to the parasite and the various strategies now being followed for vaccine production.

Non-A, non-B hepatitis is currently a diagnosis of exclusion: no specific agent has been incriminated. The short chapter on this topic considers the evidence for multiple viruses and examines the ultrastructural and antigenic evidence of NANB infection together with the practical problem of virus inactivation and the prevention of transmission.

The authors of the chapter on immunity to influenza concentrate on immunity rather than immunology, taking an historical and epidemiological approach. However, those wishing a more basic treatment of antimicrobial immunity should be satisfied with this chapter on synthetic peptide immunogens. This covers both viruses and bacterial vaccines but concentrates on the basic mechanisms of peptide immunogenicity and how these can be manipulated.

I was surprised to find a chapter on tumour immunology in this volume. It is a complex subject and this review would probably be too simple for the specialist immunologist. It is, however, an excellent survey of the field for the microbiologist with a reasonable knowledge of immunology.

The chapter that I found most useful was that on IgA proteases: enzymes produced by a number of mucosal pathogens that split IgA and may help in establishing the organism on the epithelial surface.

The volume is well produced and the individual contributions all have an extensive up-to-date bibliography. I would prefer to see titles included with references, but this would add considerably to the length of the book. At \$30 it is excellent value.

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Annual Review of Microbiology. Vol. 37, 1983

Edited by L. NICHOLAS, ALBERT BALOWS and PAUL BAUMANN. Pp. viii + 676, illustrated. Annual Reviews, Palo Alto, California, 1983. \$27.00 (U.S.A.), \$30.00 (elsewhere). Prices include postage and handling.

This series covers all aspects of microbiology and any single volume will only contain a proportion of material that is of interest to the medical microbiologist or clinician. Of the 25 topics in Volume 37, 7 are relevant to medicine. They are the immunology of malaria, the cell walls of gram-positive bacteria, non-A non-B hepatitis viruses,

Aspects of Care in Labour. Current Reviews in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

J. M. BEAZLEY and M. O. LOBB. Pp. 142, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1983. £9.00.

I enjoyed this book, finding it easy to read with many interesting and informative sections. The authors have taken the trouble to reference the book extensively and the bibliography is up to date. The book was written by two obstetricians and represents one view of the active management of labour. It is very much geared to active