Book Reviews

Advances in World Diabetes Research, Reviewed Contents of 1982's Major Diabetes Congresses, Francesco Belfior and Silvia Iannello. *Frontiers in Diabetes*. Vol. 5. Pp. vii + 257. Karger, Basel, München, Paris, London, New York, Tokyo, Sydney, 1984. £51.65; Sw. Fr. 165; DM 198; \$99.00.

This book is an attempt to synthesise a coherent review of current medical research out of the abstracts of the major international American and European diabetes meetings of the year 1982. It is the fifth volume in the series and contains 200 pages of text with almost 800 references. Readers of Congress abstracts will already know how indigestible they can be and when abridged versions of as many as 800 of these are strung together in the manner used in this book the effect is, in most instances, extremely soporific. Specialist workers in the fields covered will usually be familiar with the work described, which will in any case have been carried out a least three years ago, and the non-specialist diabetologist may well wish to select some other style of text from which to update his knowledge. In these circumstances it is difficult to predict the likely readership for such an expensive book with such limited appeal. One must, however, not be entirely critical and certain sections succeed in providing quite an acceptable overview of the subjects covered. This book can be recommended for libraries but individuals will want to consider carefully before investing in it.

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Clinical Physiology, Fifth Edition, edited by E.J. Moran Campbell, C.J. Dickinson, J.D.H. Slater, C.R.W. Edwards, K. Sikora. Pp. xv + 744, illustrated. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Boston, Palo Alto, Melbourne, 1984. £25.00.

It is a pleasure to welcome the overdue 5th edition of this modern classic. The ten years since the 4th edition have seen an expansion in many fields. The new edition accommodates advances, new editors and new contributors without any commensurate growth in size.

The intention as before is to provide a didactic text which will suit those with exams in mind. The clarity of the text is such that it provides a valuable aid to my daughter who is battling with A level Biology. As were its predecessors, it is a helpful source for her father when in need of brushing up on the scientific basis of various aspects of clinical medicine. What more can one hope for from any textbook!

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Complications of Total Hip Replacement, edited by R.S.M. Ling. *Current Problems in Orthopaedics Series*. Pp. vi + 288, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1984. £25.00.

This book is well presented and covers the complications of an operation which is currently being carried out at an annual rate of approximately 30,000. It has interesting chapters on the immediate anaesthetic problems of hip replacement and Mr Ratliff has contributed a chapter on the more unusual surgical complications which he has collected. Most complications, however, are due to infection and mechanical failure and accordingly more emphasis is placed on these problems. At the present time many of the causes for failure of hip prostheses have been found retrospectively and suggestions to avoid these such as improved cement technique (of which Mr Ling is a pioneer) and of prosthetic loosening are introduced and rationalised. These hypotheses are shown to reduce the complication rate over a period of a short follow-up. This book fills a definite gap in the literature of this country and can be recommended to any training orthopaedic surgeons, and should stimulate all practising orthopaedic surgeons critically to analyse their present techniques of this operation where complications can have devastating results.

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