The bulk of the book deals adequately with the details of anatomy and the various infections and their management. Figure 7/6 presumably aims to reproduce the condylomata lata of secondary syphilis. These are now very unusual in the United Kingdom. To label them syphilitic warts may generate unnecessary confusion with venereal warts (condylomata accuminata) which are now very common.

I feel that more emphasis could have been given to prevention and the use of the condom deserves a mention. On the whole, this is essentially a sound, well researched book. Perhaps, in a future edition, some detailed guidance should be given to patients on how and where to obtain professional advice.

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Human Experimentation: a Guided Step into the Unknown, William A. Silverman. Pp. xii + 204, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1985. £20.00.

This is very much a personal account of Professor Silverman's pilgrimage through the years of observation and experiment on the relationship between retrolental fibroplasia and oxygen treatment in premature neonates. He has, of course, already published an account of the retrolental fibroplasia 'epidemic' and its implications (*Retrolental Fibroplasia: A Modern Parable*, Grune and Stratton, 1980), but in this monograph, written while a Christensen Visiting Fellow at St Catherine's College, Oxford, Silverman uses the questions thrown up by this tragic and still unsolved series of events to illustrate the problems encountered when preparing and executing any form of human experimentation. Many contemporary books on this subject concentrate on drug evaluation, but this particular aspect of the subject receives relatively scant attention here, and recent helpful series on the subject, for example in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, and in *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, are not referred to.

All too often, young clinicians throw themselves into projects without first considering the essential ingredients of good clinical research. This book would provide an excellent, thoughtful and thought-provoking text for them to digest before submitting their first protocol to their local ethics committee.

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Norris and Campbell's Anaesthetics, Resuscitation and Intensive Care, Sixth edition, Donald Campbell and Alastair A. Spence. Pp. xiii + 254, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £7.50.

This sixth edition by two professors of anaesthesia marks 20 years of a text for medical students and house staff. The concept of a balanced section on medicolegal aspects has been omitted. In a text of this nature there must be compromises but the guidelines for junior staff in pre- and post-operative management could usefully have been expanded. In modern practice insulin requirements are usually based on frequent blood glucose estimations rather than urine testing and the use of low dose, continuous i.v. insulin infusions is briefly acknowledged without reference to dosage. The use of continuous analgesic infusions for post-operative pain relief is also not discussed. The preoperative examination and investigation of patients is predominantly orientated to respiratory problems with limited reference to congenital or acquired cardiac disease. A section on patients with pacemakers would have been most useful.

The book has not undergone major revision since the fifth edition and a useful section on medicolegal aspects has been omitted. In a text of this nature there must be compromises but the guidelines for junior staff in pre- and post-operative management could usefully have been expanded. In modern practice insulin requirements are usually based on frequent blood glucose estimations rather than urine testing and the use of low dose, continuous i.v. insulin infusions is briefly acknowledged without reference to dosage. The use of continuous analgesic infusions for post-operative pain relief is also not discussed. The preoperative examination and investigation of patients is predominantly orientated to respiratory problems with limited reference to congenital or acquired cardiac disease. A section on patients with pacemakers would have been most useful.

A chapter entitled Respiratory Intensive Care Unit devotes full consideration to many aspects of intensive therapy although a comment on brain death diagnosis and its legal implications is absent. Resuscitation is well covered and although not entirely in line with UK Resuscitation Council recommendations is quite acceptable.

The reviewer commends this book to medical students and house staff for its easy style and well illustrated text. It remains extremely good value for money.

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Nutrition, Hypertension and Cardiovascular Disease, Ronald S. Smith. Pp. 210. Lyncean Press, Gilroy, California, 1984. \$12.95.

The increasing interest in nutritional factors in the pathogenesis of hypertension is to be welcomed. If some of these factors can be proven, it would then be possible to consider reversibility or possibly prevention of hypertension. This would be an infinitely better option than the mass use of antihypertensive drugs. Dr Ronald Smith is to be congratulated on producing a very useful short monograph which covers a very large number of topics. All too often books like this are written with a multiplicity of authors and the net effect is confusion. Dr Smith has taken us through the obvious nutritional factors like calcium, potassium, sodium, obesity and alcohol and he has also included extensive data on trace metals and vitamin metabolism.

In a relatively short monograph such as this, it is important that the author should provide a useful and more importantly a readable explanation of the importance of each individual nutritional factor. At the end it is necessary also that the author should provide some form of clear and simple recommendations. On both these counts Dr Ronald Smith has succeeded. '*Nutrition, hypertension and cardiovascular disease*' is an extremely useful basis for further reading and I can recommend it for both clinicians and researchers. Clearly, the expert in any single nutritional factor will find "his" section to be inadequate but if every expert was to be satisfied, the book would run to several volumes.

There is a strange omission in that this book does not contain any form of index. The publication is poor in that the book is printed on cheap paper using a wordprocessor rather than formal printing. In my view Dr Smith deserves a better publisher for this extremely interesting and readable book.

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A Practical Guide for the Obstetric Team, by M.D. Read and Diana Welby in association with Cathryn Pawley and Diane Brears. Pp. ix + 285, illustrated. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore. 1985. £9.75.

Having found myself by chance in the Canadian backwoods studying for the MRCOG with the incomparable Maggie Miles as my only up-to-date obstetric guide, I have for some time wondered at the gulf dividing doctors' and midwives' textbooks. It was therefore with particular interest that I reviewed this white-coat-pocket sized practical guide for members of the obstetric team from both backgrounds. To find a short 280 page paperback starting with a commendable chapter on 'Psychological Aspects of Childbearing' further increased my interest, and that chapter introduces the excellent manner in which, while covering the technical side of obstetrics in a highly competent manner, the authors have also given due weight to the humanity of childbirth.

On the more technical side, as might be expected in such a brief excursion into a field of adventure as complex as modern midwifery, my review copy soon became decorated at an average rate of 1 per 20 pages with marginal question marks; and in a larger textbook the lack of adequate references to back up controversial statements might be considered a serious omission. However, each subject is very clearly covered, and where a dogmatic view conceals current uncertainties the views expressed would in general commend themselves to most senior registrars or young consultants.

As compared with older textbooks, the standard anatomy section with illustrations of supposedly important pelvic shapes has at last totally disappeared; and in its place are chapters on such practical problems as: 'Genetic counselling', 'Pregnancy and the handicapped mother', and 'Inconsistent uterine size'. Adequate emphasis is now given to the crucial place of the partogram, and the longest chapter in the book is

rightly devoted to a full explanation of intra-partum fetal monitoring.

Illustrations, although very clear, are relatively sparse, but this is compensated for by an excellent style of English. As a result, for those able to absorb such undiluted medicine, with an average chapter length of 6 pages the book is admirably suited to the late night pre-examination 'If I pull myself together and concentrate I should be able to get through one more chapter before giving up' syndrome. The binding seems well made, the print is clear, and different typefaces are well used to aid communication and readability. Indeed, quality of this level at a price less than £10 is unusual.

This book is intended to provide 'a concise and readable account of the normal course of pregnancy, the problems which may arise, and their recommended treatment'. Within its limited size it does this exceptionally well; it has a far greater feel for the current style of obstetric care than its rivals, and I am pleased to recommend it to all midwives and doctors who need a short, but highly concentrated, introductory textbook.

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Proper Doctoring, David Mendel. Pp. ix + 177. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, Tokyo, 1984. £5.15 approx, DM 19.00, US \$6.70 approx.

Sadly, I was just too young to be taught by Geoffrey Evans. The author has that advantage, and Geoffrey's common-sense precepts run like a vein of gold through this extremely readable book. It is really a guide to how 'good doctoring' should be carried out – taking the history, examining the patient, arranging investigations, arriving at a diagnosis, and then giving advice and explanation to the patients, is all there, but whereas most primers of medicine tell you how you should examine a spleen, and why it might be felt, the author lets one know what it feels like to be a patient who is having his spleen examined – the anxieties and apprehension that this may cause, and whether or not one should let him, the patient, know what is found.

So much of the information in this book should be absorbed by any student subjected to a clinical training based on the 'apprenticeship' approach. How to behave, and what to do, is best learned by example. With bedside teaching becoming less and less possible as numbers of students increase, and with the torrent of information needing to be channelled into lectures and seminars, there is no doubt that many of the first principles that are outlined in this book can be missed by the modern medical student. This book, which is a witty, amusing and sensitive account of medical practice, would be of help to any young doctor starting out on his career, and might be read with advantage by those of us who are a little older.

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