This book is part of a series of methodology text books in clinical immunology and as such I am sure will be useful to laboratory based workers. Its index could have been expanded to help those people who wish to refer to the book for an individual standard technique rather than having to scan pages looking for the information.

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Practical Geriatric Medicine, A. Norman Exton-Smith and Marc E. Weksler. Pp. viii + 475, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £34.00.

It is 25 years since Professor (then Dr.) Exton-Smith wrote the first textbook of geriatric medicine. At that time there were dire warnings that geriatric medicine was an ephemeral non-discipline and that a textbook on the subject was redundant, but the specialty has burgeoned and textbooks have multiplied. Even the USA, long dormant in spite of the geriatric medicine bugle calls, is awakening.

This textbook reflects the US interest with editors and contributors from both sides of the Atlantic. Much of the writing is about standard subjects and sensible accounts are given; the occasional writer gives the impression that he would rather be writing in a general medical textbook than having to find something that applies to the elderly only. The emphasis is generally good and the chapter on sleep disorders is excellent. Particularly well done are the chapters on topics which are not usual in a general medical book – epidemiology of ageing, resources and rehabilitation. The layout is pleasing but there are numerous spelling mistakes.

This book fills a gap between the smaller texts and the large, expensive tomes. As such it is strongly recommended and should find a wide readership.

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Major Problems in Internal Medicine Vol. 24. Sarcoidosis and Other Granulomatous Disorders, D. Geraint James and W. Jones Williams. Pp. xiv + 254, illustrated. W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia, London, Toronto, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, Sydney, Tokyo, 1985. £39.50.

This is the 24th volume in a series 'Major Problems in Internal Medicine' in which the editor and most other contributors are North American. In this volume the authors are British, a physician and a pathologist who have studied sarcoidosis and published extensively on this subject over many years.

It starts with a fascinating historical review. This is followed by a classification of sarcoidosis and other gran-

ulomatous disorders and by descriptions of the pathology and of the ways in which sarcoidosis involves different systems. The next 7 chapters give a more detailed account of sarcoidosis of different organs and tissues based on the clinical, radiographic and laboratory findings in 818 patients attending Dr. James's Unit at the Royal Northern Hospital, London, over 30 years up to 1981 and of 3676 patients collected from a world-wide survey who have attended 11 sarcoidosis clinics in 9 different countries.

The book concludes with chapters on the biochemistry, immunology, criteria of disease activity, differential diagnosis, aetiology, treatment and epidemiology.

The authors have succeeded in condensing a wealth of information into a relatively small number of pages by judicious use of clear, succinct English, tables and diagrams. The price is fairly high, being in the same range as some standard text books of respiratory diseases. However, this should not prevent its purchase by hospital and department libraries as it is valuable reference source for general physicians and for specialists in thoracic medicine, ophthalmology, dermatology and many other branches of medicine.

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Scientific Basis of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Third edition, edited by Ronald R. Macdonald. Pp. vii + 520, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £35.00.

The third edition of this popular and successful book has been extensively revised and re-written. It now contains 14 chapters on basic scientific aspects of obstetrics and gynaecology, and new subjects covered in this edition include ovarian function, epidemiology, genetic counselling and ultrasound. All the chapters have been produced by distinguished authors and they are invariably well-written with most achieving their aim of taking the reader through from an understanding of basic science to an appreciation of its clinical application.

The book is reasonably well-illustrated, but understandably such subjects as immunological factors in pregnancy, epidemiology, medical ethics and sexual dysfunction do not readily lend themselves to elaborate visual aids. Each chapter starts with a headlined précis of its contents and ends with a very useful and extensive bibliography.

The book is not a comprehensive work that is suitable on its own for candidates taking the Part I MRCOG examination; indeed this is not its declared purpose. It is, nevertheless, a most useful adjuvant work which is suitable for candidates preparing for both the Part I and Part II MRCOG examinations. The book therefore, is primarily directed to the practising clinician who seeks to improve his or her basic understanding of the scientific aspects of clinical obstetrics and gynaecology and to this end this excellent book fulfils its intention.

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