on every General Practitioner's and Family Planning Doctor's consulting room shelf.

I found the cross-referencing rather irritating at times and used too often, for example, paragraph 6.23 5 reads '5 Parity – relates directly to 1, inversely to 3 and 7 (see Qs 6.37 and 6.70)'. Frequency of the cross-referencing makes the text somewhat indigestible in places. However, this is only a small criticism and £4.95 is well spent on this book.

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Education and Training in Psychiatry: a Case Study in the Continuity of Medical Education. Edited by Henry Walton. Pp. 231. King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, London (distributed by Oxford University Press), 1986. £12.00.

This case study is an analysis of the outcome of two meetings. The Royal College of Psychiatrists, the Association of University Teachers of Psychiatry and the Association of Psychiatrists in Training, held a Conference on 'Education and Training in Psychiatry' in 1982. This meeting concentrated on the contribution which psychiatric teaching makes in the education and training of medical students and psychiatrists, and its impact on recruitment to the specialty. Subsequently, in 1983, the Steering Committee organized a post-conference meeting designed for a selected audience of medical educators, health service planners and administrators, and representatives of regulatory and funding bodies. They discussed four issues: recruitment to academic departments of psychiatry and research, the maintenance of post-graduate training in the face of financial austerity, overseas trainees; and continuing education for consultant psychiatrists.

It is evident that the vast bulk of psychiatric morbidity coming to medical attention is detected and managed by general practitioners and general hospital specialists rather than by psychiatrists. Unfortunately, the educational impetus towards making psychiatry a subject which is relevant to all doctors has been relatively slow, though it has been gathering momentum during the past 30 years. Current political, economic and social forces indicate that more radical educational change is now likely to occur, and in two contrasting directions: as exemplified by (a) the move to community care, which may include elements of de-institutionalization and de-professionalization; and (b) the re-emergence of private practice. There is, consequently, uncertainty about what the effects of this will be on research into the aetiology, treatment and outcome of mental disorders – which is still so obviously lacking.

Such stimulating and challenging thoughts have wide relevance within medicine, and prompt both a degree of optimism and Lord Rutherford's remark: 'We have no money, so we will have to think.'

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Essentials of Medical Mycology. E. Glyn, V. Evans and James C. Gentles. Pp. x + 195, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £14.95.

Fungal infections are an important cause of disease in debilitated and immunocompromised patients as well as normally healthy individuals. The purpose of this book is to provide a readable account of fungal disease and to bridge a gap between lengthy and detailed books on medical mycology and short accounts found in general textbooks.

Essentials of Medical Mycology is a paperback which is relatively short (188 pages) and easy to read. There are introductory chapters on nomenclature, immunology, diagnosis and antifungal drugs. This is followed by descriptive chapters on the most important mycoses which includes sections on diseases of the eye and ear. There are a number of useful appendices such as one containing recipes for mycological culture media as well as a short glossary. There are few (black and white) illustrations and some examples of histopathology and culture mounts.

Although the book is brief it provides a good account of the mycoses and amply fulfils its aim 'to present an account of the fungal infections and the necessary approaches for diagnosis.' It could perhaps be helpful to have drug doses included as these are often difficult to find in other sources. The authors have faced a difficult problem in presenting the cultural identification of some pathogenic fungi such as the agents of chromomycosis. However, they have taken the right decision in opting for simplicity rather than plunging the reader into mycological controversy.

At £14.95 this book is a good buy, well written and readable. Although it is primarily aimed at students and laboratory workers in medicine and microbiology one would hope it would reach a wider readership.

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Essentials of Urology. Edited by Joseph N. Corriere, Jr. Pp. xi + 353, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1986. £29.00.

Dr Corriere and a group of colleagues from Houston have written this book primarily for medical students and for residents (although the latter group would only use it as an introductory text). The book starts with a problem-orientated section before dealing with specific diagnostic areas such as infections and neoplasms. This generally is successful but in one or two places attempts at comprehension conceal the important among the less relevant. For example it is surely unwise to place 'rhabdomyosarcoma of the cord' as the second diagnosis of a list of 12 causes of testicular swelling, and the message that haematuria must be considered due to a tumour until proved otherwise does not stand out as clearly as it should. A surprising omission is the concept of bladder instability. The failure to point out that there are a group of elderly men with this condition but without outflow obstruction and for whom prostatectomy is inappropriate, is serious especially for readers who may

become primary physicians and who will need to understand the decisions of urologists to whom they refer patients. However the book has many merits and its approach serves its intended audience well. Despite this it is difficult to recommend it to British students who will be confused by the differences between the American practices described in it and those they will see and be taught in their medical schools. This is a pity because the student will learn a lot from reading this book which could provide a model for anyone considering a similar volume for British students.

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Frontiers in Histamine Research: a Tribute to Heinz Schild. Based on an International Symposium held at Jouy-en-Josas (near Paris), France, 25–27 July 1984. Edited by C. Robin Ganellin and Jean-Charles Schwartz. *Advances in the Biosciences*. Vol. 51. Pp. xvi + 442, illustrated. Pergamon Press, Oxford, New York, Toronto, Sydney, Paris, Frankfurt, 1985. £50.00, \$80.00.

This book is a compilation of some of the papers presented at an International Symposium in France in 1984. In the preface, there is a brief account of the work of Professor Heinz Schild written by Sir James Black. The remaining 45 papers are grouped into 8 sections. These include papers on the receptor biochemistry and pharmacology of histamine and its distribution, release, metabolism and action in the brain. There then follow sections on the actions of histamine in the gut, cardiovascular system and immune responses. The last section is devoted to an account of the mechanisms of histamine release.

Most of the contents of this volume refer to animal work, but provide a good account of the pharmacology underlying clinical research and use of histamine blocking drugs. Clinicians will be intrigued by the paper by Bauman and others on the use of combined H_2 receptor stimulation and phosphodiesterase inhibition as a new therapeutic approach for patients with congestive heart failure. The cost of the volume is representative of that of symposium proceedings and this may limit its purchase to libraries where it will be a very useful addition.

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Genetic Biochemical Disorders. Philip F. Benson and Anthony H. Fensom. *Oxford Monographs on Medical Genetics*. No. 12. Pp. xx + 692, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Toronto, 1985. £55.00.

This is a book remarkable in some ways (its extensive referencing for example) and infuriating in others. The text covers the traditional areas included in the field of inborn

errors, predominantly the defects of intermediary metabolism. It is a daunting task for any two authors to set themselves. Their bigger rival texts are multi-author – Bondy and Rosenberg or the classic text of Stanbury and his colleagues for example. In the sense that this book provides something smaller and cheaper it meets a need but it is not entirely successful. It succeeds particularly in that it contains a large amount of information and a staggering reference list (more than 3,500 on the reviewer's calculations).

In a text of this kind there is the problem of balance and inevitably no two authors can be uniformly knowledgeable over the range of material this book covers. So for example more than a quarter of the text is given over to lysosomal storage disorders and an equal space to amino acid and organic acid disorders. About one-third of the text remains for disorders of purines and pyrimidines, carbohydrates, porphyrins, red cells, lipids and lipoproteins, steroids, copper metabolism and a miscellany of other disorders. It is quite evident where the authors' real experience lies and this is supported by the many clinical illustrations in the section on mucopolysaccharidoses and other storage disorders. There are no clinical illustrations in other sections of the book except for a child with xeroderma pigmentosum. There are other oddities of selection. Copper diseases are covered for example but another trace metal, zinc and acrodermatitis enteropathica is excluded. The miscellaneous selection includes relatively brief accounts of intestinal enzyme deficiencies and genetic forms of rickets. Because of their brevity they do not add to the book. Frequently clinical management is ignored – how to deal with acute attacks of porphyria for example.

In fairness the authors indicate in the Preface that therapy was not their chief objective in producing the book. The reviewer is left with the strong impression that the authors would have produced a better book if they had concentrated on the metabolic fields they know well and given more thought to balance, illustration, presentation (which is rather dull) and therapy. They must however be credited with a text bringing together a large amount of information which will make it a useful source of reference.

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Growth Disorders in Infants, Children and Adolescents. Marvin L. Rallison. Pp. xi + 476, illustrated. John Wiley, New York, Chichester, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1986. £35.80.

This book provides, in a concise form, a review of normal growth in children from the fetus through to adolescence and in the second half considers disorders of growth at different stages in the child's development. The first six chapters describe methods for measuring intra- and extrauterine growth. Mechanisms for controlling growth in both these environments are considered, although, presumably due to the space available, this is lamentably brief when the endocrine regulation of growth in childhood is considered.