pot pourri of case reports. The strength of the book lies within the third section which deals with the nuts and bolts of looking after the diabetic child, both in and out of hospital. It is inevitable that some parts of this book are already dated; I also deprecate the use of references to work submitted, in press or only presented at meetings. Nevertheless, this is a book which will readily appeal to nurses, dieticians and doctors, and perhaps some parents involved in the care of diabetic children.

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Clinics in Anaesthesiology. Vol. 4, no. 3, July 1986. Preparation for Anaesthesia, edited by J. Stevens. Pp. ix + Pp. 445–798, illustrated. W.B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, 1986. £13.50.

Preparation for Anaesthesia originally appeared six years ago in standard text book form. This volume of *Clinics in Anaesthesiology* is in fact a second edition, considerably improved by revision and expansion to include sections on cardiac hepatic and renal disease. The 19 chapters are nearly all by UK authors who write clearly and succinctly. Good editing has ensured minimal repetition, overlap or conflicting advice. There are no illustrations and few figures, but the quality of text, its division into headed sections and excellent printing and binding make for easy reading of a vast amount of information.

The title is somewhat misleading. As well as the investigation and pre-operative management of patients for general or local anaesthesia, several chapters include basic descriptions of physiology and pharmacology, there is a dissertation on day case surgery and a superb chapter on legal liability. Many of the contributions start very simply, but all develop a comprehensive and up to date survey of their subject. This provides an ideal framework for FFA candidates preparing written and oral answers. It also will be useful to practising anaesthetists and clinicians of other disciplines who seek guidance on the importance to anaesthesia of many disease states and congenital abnormalities. Criticisms are few. The one US contribution is pretentiously verbose; the outstanding author on legal liability does not appear in the list of contributors; magnesium trisilicate should no longer be advised as the pre-operative antacid; on page 714, the dose of metaraminol (20–100 mg) is one of the rare printing errors.

Most large departments of anaesthesia will be subscribers to *Clinics in Anaesthesiology*. This particular edition should certainly be available to all anaesthetists, and medical librarians should be alerted to the wealth of information for other clinicians which is hidden in this volume of a specialty serial.

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Colour Atlas of Cardiovascular Pathology, M.J. Davies. Oxford Colour Atlases of Pathology. Pp.186, illustrated. Harvey Miller, London, in conjunction with Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1986. £60.00.

Professor Davies' previous writings lead us to expect, in this atlas, a lucid and well illustrated account of the general field of cardiac pathology; in this we are not disappointed. One of the most valuable aspects is the stressing of correlations between patho-physiological states and the structural changes seen by pathologists. In this connection, a particularly valuable component is Professor Davies's account of the way in which cardiac dissection may be carried out in echocardiographic planes. The many photographs are aesthetically pleasing, as well as being informative, and the high quality of the paper used and of the colour reproduction make this book a pleasure to handle.

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Farquharson's Textbook of Operative Surgery, Seventh edition, edited by R.F. Rintoul. Pp.v + 658, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £45.00.

In 1954, Eric Farquharson, a distinguished Edinburgh surgical teacher, produced a one volume, one author textbook of operative surgery written by a general surgeon. It covered the whole field of operative surgery and immediately became popular among FRCS candidates as well as single-handed surgeons who have had to deal with a wide range of surgical conditions. Since then, times have changed and there are few, if any, surgical practitioners today who can claim expertise in the ever-widening spectrum of techniques of modern surgery. The present author is now joined by 15 colleagues from the United Kingdom. These comprise four general surgeons, three orthopaedic surgeons, specialists in ENT, plastic, neuro-, cardiothoracic, gynaecological and paediatric surgery, and a director of a Regional Blood Transfusion Service.

The seventh edition, however, maintains the original flavour of a single volume text that covers the whole of operative surgery. It is clearly written, illustrated by numerous clear line diagrams and photographs (some in colour), and provided with a bibliography of specialist references. It is completely up to date, with, for instance, details of stapling methods of intestinal anastomoses, modern percutaneous and endoscopic urological techniques and recently developed plastic flap closures of major cutaneous defects.

This new edition of 'Farquharson' is sure to maintain its well-deserved popularity with candidates working for their higher surgical examinations.

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