Infectious Diarrhoea in the Young: Strategies for Control in Humans and Animals. Proceedings of an International Seminar on Diarrhoeal Disease in South East Asia and the Western Pacific Region, Geelong, Australia, 10–15 February 1985, edited by Saul Tzipori. International Congress Series, no. 674. Pp. xvii + 514, illustrated. Excerpta Medica, Amsterdam, New York, Oxford, 1985. US\$98.50, Dfl.266.00.

Animal reservoirs of infection are a particular risk for children, especially in rural communities. This book has been generated by a seminar held in Australia to examine many aspects of infectious diarrhoea in children and in domestic animals. It thus encompasses the epidemiology and microbiology of viruses, bacteria, and parasites, immunization and mucosal immunity and treatment and the control of cross infection. The format of presentation is into groups of multi-author papers largely from Asian Pacific countries. Initial over-views are followed by twenty-four accounts of the problems associated with diarrhoeal diseases in settings as disparate as the coral island of Niue and downtown Beijing in the People's Republic of China. The importance of research based in local environments is emphasized by a review of the activities of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Bangladesh from 1962 to the present time. The initial preoccupation with cholera and the emergence of the rotavirus as a ubiquitously recognised pathogen is well illustrated. The ten veterinary papers on diarrhoea in young livestock are less wide ranging.

Mechanisms of diarrhoea are difficult to study in children, thus collaborative work between veterinary and human medical investigators is particularly fruitful. The structural and functional responses of the intestinal mucosa to various enteric pathogens are usefully reviewed with a particular emphasis on factors affecting adherence and colonization. There are up-date sections on viral, bacterial, and protozoal pathogens with a more detailed analysis with respect to rotavirus on serology, and vaccine development. Genetic engineering, having entered the world of enterotoxigenic *E. coli*, is providing a greater understanding of the molecular properties of pilus-adhesins; it is also opening up new approaches to diagnosis. The last third of the book turns to the clinical management and prevention of gastroenteritis. Oral rehydration solutions and the maintenance of nutrition are examined; the role of mucosal defence is illustrated by four papers covering humoral immunity and the gut. The Holy Grail of vaccine development is clearly some way ahead and the book ends with a re-emphasis on public health measures and improvements in infant feeding practices. There is no index but the list of contents is comprehensive and most contributions are sufficiently short to allow subjects to be found quickly. The references are inconsistently described in different papers but they are not repetitive and they cite a quite fascinating array of local national Journals and government reports. Rapidly produced conference proceedings are usually for selective reading and are of necessity of specialist interest. This congress is no exception but it certainly covers a useful range of complementary fields.

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Journal of Interventional Radiology. Vol. 1, No. 1, September 1986, edited by Gordon McLean and Robert A. Wilkins. Pp. iv + 53, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. Quarterly subscriptions. Vol. 1 (2 issues): individuals £21.00/\$32.50, institutions £27.50/\$40.00. Vol. 2 (4 issues): individuals £45.00/\$90.00, institutions £60.00/\$120.00.

In the last decade percutaneous or catheter methods have been developed for internal diseases previously treated by surgery. Renal cyst puncture was followed by antegrade pyelography and later percutaneous nephrostomy culminating in stone removal. Burhenne pioneered stone retrieval when he used the track of the post-cholecystectomy T-tube to remove biliary calculi from the common bile duct. Surgeons were understandably most grateful, for who would wish to re-operate in these circumstances.

And so from diagnosis by easy stages to treatment, from aspiration to drainage, from arteriography to angioplasty and embolisation and from sonographic localisation to stone fragmentation, techniques requiring new catheters, needles, guide wires, probes and above all new ideas. As the expertise has increased so has the need for the dissemination of the new knowledge. A number of textbooks have already appeared and now the definitive journal.

The first issue reflects the ever expanding scope of the subject, percutaneous treatment of disc disease, removal of stones and foreign bodies, embolisation of vascular malformations and dealing with haemorrhage. But can the Journal be sustained when there are a large number of radiological journals carrying articles on this subject and some of these journals even have special sections devoted to interventional methods? Time will tell. We, from this journal, can only wish their editorial staff well.

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Liaison Psychiatry: Mental Health Problems in the General Hospital, Joan Gomez. Pp. v + 276. Croom Helm, London, Sydney, 1987. £22.50 (hardback), £10.95 (paperback).

Many district hospitals now have well established departments of psychiatry. The decision to locate psychiatric services within general hospitals has made it much easier for psychiatrists to collaborate with their physician and surgeon colleagues and to contribute to the management of medically ill patients. This area of psychiatry, which has come to be known as liaison psychiatry, is a developing area of interest in Britain although it has been established much longer in other countries, particularly the United States.

There are relatively few books which the psychiatrist or physician can turn to as a guide through the many difficult psychiatric problems in the general hospital. This book by Joan Gomez is therefore a welcome addition to the literature and it is sure to prove very useful. The author discusses the role of the psychiatrist in the general hospital, particularly with regard to the management of patients with psychiatric complications of organic disease, psychosomatic disorders

and terminal illness. It is clear that the liaison psychiatrist's responsibilities are considered to extend beyond the confines of treating mental illness and the author provides a long list of tasks which should be undertaken. These include educating and supporting staff in coping with chronic disease, setting up groups for the treatment of patients with illnesses such as bronchial asthma, mediating within the therapeutic team, managing abnormal illness behaviour and applying techniques such as hypnotherapy and biofeedback. Many will find this a daunting list and the author admits that the liaison psychiatrist depends heavily on the support of other professionals. A multidisciplinary support is emphasized throughout the book but few departments will be able to provide the full range of facilities described here.

Dr Gomez then describes in detail the special problems encountered in relation to particular medical specialities, including neurology, oncology, nephrology and obstetrics and gynaecology. Each chapter is well referenced and remarkably up to date. This reflects well not only on the author but also on the publishers who have clearly done their work efficiently.

The book is essentially an introductory text but none the worse for that. Its focus is strictly clinical and there are several illustrative case histories. It can be recommended to trainee psychiatrists, nurses and junior medical staff as a practical guide, and hospital libraries should be persuaded to purchase it.

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Management of Advanced Melanoma, edited by Larry Nathanson. Contemporary Issues in Clinical Oncology. Vol. 6. Pp. xiv + 272, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1986. £32.00.

The initial reaction on reading the title of this book is that it must have been written by masochists for masochists! There can be few diseases less responsive to therapy than advanced melanoma. However, this multi-author volume is surprisingly readable, optimistic and informative.

As a result of the difficulties in treating advanced melanoma the contents are indeed a review of modern developments in oncology. Thus useful reviews on cytotoxic drugs are complemented by a comprehensive review of high dosage chemotherapy with autologous bone marrow transplantation, biological response modifiers such as interferons and the uses of monoclonal antibodies and retinoids. Chemosensitivity is sensibly assessed in two chapters reviewing various techniques.

There are also very good reviews on the role of surgical techniques as well as radiotherapy and hyperthermia. The relative lack of success of many techniques in improving survival does tend to be depressing! However, just when interest flags novel subjects such as uveal melanoma, vitiligo and antipigmentary compounds are introduced. To round it all off is a review of recent views on the molecular genetics of the disease.

The book provides a good up-to-date review of a wide-ranging look at the subject. The editor is to be congratulated

on his choice of subject matter for the individual chapters as well as of his authors. The bibliographies are as up to date as might be expected with publication delay on books and from a useful reference source. I can strongly recommend it as a valuable addition to a departmental library.

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Manual of Medical Therapeutics, 25th edition. Washington University Department of Medicine; edited by Matthew J. Orland and Robert J. Saltman. Little, Brown Spiral Manual. Pp. xii + 500. Little Brown, Boston, Toronto, 1986. £9.95 (spiral binding).

There is a large amount of useful information packed into this book which is small enough to fit into a white coat pocket and costs just under £10. The first edition produced in 1943–44 was intended to provide guide lines in medical therapy for fourth year medical students. Over the last 43–44 years, it has gone through 25 editions and would now provide useful information for medical staff of any level working in hospital. Unfortunately they would have to be medical staff working in the United States of America or they would have to be sufficiently well informed to separate out that which is generally applicable and that which is for the American market. This is unfortunate since the authors have a great deal that is helpful to say about a wide range of medical problems such as managing cardiac arrhythmias, investigating pleural effusions or choosing antibiotics and treating infections.

The section on asthma exemplifies the problems for the non-American reader. The principles laid down on how to evaluate and investigate the patient are helpful. However some of the drugs are not available and others like subcutaneous epinephrine (adrenaline) have almost been relegated to the history book. Furthermore, I am not sure how often obtundation is used as an indication for mechanical ventilation.

For the reasons indicated this book could not be recommended for the student or the junior doctor who just wants one book to cover his or her needs in relation to treating medical patients in hospital. However if it were available in a postgraduate centre, the reader who is clear that it is intended for his or her counterpart in the USA might learn a lot from referring to it to assist with the management of a particular problem. The index is excellent.

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