discussion especially in relation to the use of immunosuppressive therapy. Another major share of the book is taken up by the complications of transplantation and this is only fitting and proper. However, there is some unfortunate repetition of views between the different chapters.

Although the book is dedicated to renal transplantation, there is an excellent chapter on dialysis. By the same token, there is a good review of recurrent disease, pregnancy, and other longterm issues. Controversial subjects such as blood transfusion, the role of matching, and the quality of life after transplantation, have each been dealt with, and these reviews will not only stimulate the thoughts of the avid reader, but the excellent bibliography that each chapter has will provide useful direction to the reader who wishes to follow the subject further. Not only have complex and challenging aspects of the longterm morbidity of transplantation been considered, but in doing so, the rare and unusual events are also discussed, albeit briefly. Where ambiguity exists, good recommendations can prove a useful guide to even a confused surgeon or person not involved in transplantation.

It is indeed extremely difficult to give adequately the views of all the specialists who contribute to the practice of transplantation, but I think that this book has gone a long way towards bringing all these disciplines together cohesively. As mentioned earlier, I found the line drawings to be of poor quality, but the radiological pictures were excellent. The references are all accurate and up to date, and feature many useful review articles.

I would commend this book to all transplanters, whether they be surgeons, physicians, immunologists, or laboratory workers. The price may put it out of reach of the non-transplanter, but it certainly would be a good manual for every transplant department and medical library. I find it an interesting feature that neither of the editors have contributed to a single chapter but I daresay that all their efforts have been placed into the thorough editing that has gone into this book.

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Reproduction in Mammals. Book 5: Manipulating Reproduction. Second edition, edited by C.R. Austin and R.V. Short. Pp. vi + 235 illustrated. Cambridge University Press, London, New York, New Rochelle, Melbourne, Sydney, 1986. £27.50; \$44.50 (hardback), £9.95; \$17.50 (paperback)

The Cambridge University Press series on reproduction in mammals, which has now been running since the early 1970s, has come to occupy a special place in the esteem of all those involved in the academic and practical aspects of this subject. Each volume consists of a series of essays by eminent scientists, having as their aim to instruct and interest the reader (and often to amuse), but NOT to provide an encyclopaedic review. Thus there are no references, only 'suggested further reading', and the illustrations are actually designed to be helpful rather than, as is often the case, to create a spurious aim of scientific accuracy.

The present volume is a worthy successor in this tradition. Furthermore, it is very timely because there have been massive changes in the topic addressed since the first edition some 15 years ago. Understanding of the basic biological processes has greatly increased and the tools of 'manipulation' even more so – the array of synthetic hormone agonists, antagonists and antibodies that can be used to control fertility in both humans and animals, and the technology which now permits every stage of human conception and implantation to be controlled by the clinical scientist.

The first chapter, by Betteridge, discusses present ways of increasing the fertility of farm animals, especially cows. In the light of the current interest in human IVF it is notable that the first embryo transfer in animals was carried out in 1980, but that IVF in animals was not successfully achieved until 1981. This is followed by Roger Short in his inimitable 'after dinner' style – much of the scientific reality of contraception is a readable package of well-chosen anecdotes. Malcolm Potts then covers similar ground but from a slightly more demographic viewpoint, while Martin Vessey discusses the benefits and hazards of current methods of contraception in a Western setting. Under the rather strange title of 'Alleviating human infertility' Jacques Cohen, Carole Fehilly and Bob Edwards discuss what most would describe as 'Causes and treatment . . .'. Here too, albeit in six brief pages, is the most significant new topic – *in vitro* fertilisation. In the next edition, perhaps, this subject will be addressed at greater length, to avoid the impression that the volume is directed at contraception rather than conception. Anne McLaren takes the subject a step forward into the 21st century and under the heading of reproductive 'options' discusses space-age prospects such as cloning and parthenogenesis. In the final chapter the senior editor returns to the past and future of population control. Will it be the major single problem of the human race in the 21st century? Should it be controlled? Can it be controlled?

This is an excellent book which should be on the shelves of anyone having a professional involvement – clinical or biological – with reproduction. The elegance of the individual essays is well complemented by the excellence of the illustrations. It is always a pleasure to see a publisher who will invest in this aspect of production rather than slavishly reproducing the often indifferent illustrative material provided by scientific authors.

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Respiratory Medicine Revision. David Mitchell. Pp. vii + 287, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £9.95.

This book has been specifically written for candidates preparing for both Part I and Part II of the MRCP examination. Throughout the book the MRCP question format is used with sections on multiple choice questions, 'grey cases', data interpretation and finally some clinical cases with chest radiographs.

The book contains 100 good multiple choice questions

arranged in 5 sections, with notes at the end of each section explaining the reasons for the correct answers. There is also a short well written, complete and up-to-date discussion of the particular topic covered in the questions. This section is ideal reading for anyone who has difficulty in coping with multiple choice questions and answers. There is a short but good section on basic respiratory physiology which will be useful for MRCP candidates as this is an area of thoracic medicine which often causes difficulty. The 'grey cases' are also carefully chosen with detailed answers and comments. At the end of each section there is a short reference list of the main subjects discussed for further study.

This respiratory revision book succeeds in covering a vast range of subjects. Although some repetition is inevitable in a text of this type, the author has kept this to a minimum by stressing different aspects of the topics on each occasion. I would recommend it as essential reading to all MRCP candidates and I am sure that anyone entering the field of thoracic medicine will also find this book useful.

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Sexually Transmitted Diseases, edited by Yehudi M. Felman. Pp. xiv + 321, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1986. £55.00.

The sexually transmitted diseases are now a rapidly advancing major discipline of medicine. This book is a welcome addition to the large number of books that have appeared lately on this subject.

It is a pleasantly produced volume with attractive printing and lay out. The emphasis is on practical aspects but controversy is not avoided which adds to the interest of the book. Every chapter is followed by a good list of references up to 1983.

I particularly like the refreshing and lively way in which much of the subject matter is discussed. The chapters on non-gonococcal urethritis by Dr William Bowie and on the papilloma viruses by Dr David Oriel are particularly good examples. Appropriately, there is a whole chapter devoted to the very important subject of pelvic inflammatory disease. The proper investigation and treatment of the male partner – although mentioned briefly – deserves a much more detailed discussion. This is important since many of these men may be non-symptomatic carriers of the gonococcus and/or *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

The chapter on non-venereal disease of the genitals has to cover a wide brief and thus, by necessity, has to be concise. However, I think that patients who complain of pearly penile papules, and who are mostly worried teenagers, should be reassured that they are normal. There is a short, general review of Kaposi's sarcoma and this will undoubtedly be greatly amplified in the next edition.

There are black and white illustrations throughout the text, and there is also a good collection of colour plates. The photographs in plate 3.8 and 11.3 could be improved on in the next edition.

This is a pleasant, stimulating and very readable book. It

deserves to have a place in many general medical and most specialist departmental libraries.

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Successful Private Practice: a Guide to Effective Medical Practice Management, Maxine Buchele and Susan Wynn-Williams. Pp. xviii + 238, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £20.00.

This book is excellently written and well laid out. It is however, written from the point of view of two practising physiotherapists, and a lot of the views contained within it are not applicable to consultant practice. There is no guidance as to the various regulations that affect most of us who work within the National Health Service hospitals and the private field, nor is there any advice as to exactly what constitutes private practice. Whereas I am certain the book would be of great benefit to physiotherapists and similar professions, I do not think it is appropriate for doctors, and I cannot recommend it.

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Venous Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism: Diagnostic Methods, edited by Jack Hirsh. *Methods in Hematology*. Vol. 18. Pp. v + 179, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1987. £30.00.

There is a clear and critical summary of the vast literature accumulated in the last few years about non-invasive techniques for diagnosing venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. Although the book follows the current fashion for multiple authors the whole topic is completely summarised in the two chapters written by the editor and his colleagues at McMasters University.

Venous thrombosis is a condition which many doctors in the United Kingdom will refuse to acknowledge as being either common or potentially dangerous. For instance, despite the large and consistent evidence to the contrary, there are many surgeons who are convinced that their patients never get deep venous thrombosis let alone pulmonary emboli. This seems the opposite of the situation described as thromboneurosis in the introduction to this book. Undoubtedly part of the problem, which this book tries to correct, is the difficulty of accurately diagnosing venous thrombosis. We are again reminded that clinical diagnosis based on the classical symptoms and signs is almost valueless, as in about half the cases there is in fact no thrombosis as judged by venography. The cause of the symptoms and signs in these patients is one of the mysteries of this subject; just possibly venography is not quite as pure a gold standard as it is generally believed to be. The various relatively non-