usually require more guidance in interpreting the data they receive than in selecting the investigations their patients require. The omission from some of the chapters of adequate information about normal ranges, not to mention the absence of a discussion of which data are normally distributed and which are not, must limit the book's general appeal. All clinicians will be pleased to find that the necessity of interpreting electrophysiological findings in the clinical context is properly stressed throughout.

Whilst clinical neurophysiology is likely to continue to complement modern imaging techniques for some time to come it is clear that its ultimate contribution to clinical management will probably emphasize the functional as opposed to the structural abnormalities which it can demonstrate. These portents are well discussed in relation to computerisation of EEG and evoked potentials, and all too briefly in chapters dealing with central nervous system disorders and event related potentials.

For the clinical neurophysiologist, often practising in relative isolation, there is an abundance of thought-provoking information and probably some invaluable refresher material as well.

There are a few surprises, such as the definition of supramaximal stimulation. The statement that somatosensory evoked potentials give a higher yield than visual evoked potentials in the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis surely requires some qualification. There may also be a few UK readers unaware that evoked potential recording in theatre costs 700 dollars per case.

This is an excellent book, beautifully produced, and no department of clinical neurophysiology should be without one.

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Exercises in Radiological Diagnosis, by Pankaj Joshi & Cecilia Freed. Pp. 151, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1986. £9.95.

From sixth form days, I recall very vividly the acute hypertension produced in the senior chemistry master by the sight of the whole of the front row of the class ostentatiously displaying copies of *Teach Yourself Chemistry* in their bright yellow covers during the headmaster's visit to the class. With this in mind it may not be apt for a radiologist to be reviewing the present volume, since it is, in effect, a physician's *Teach Yourself Radiology*.

The meat of this slim paperback consists of 68 figures, each with a brief clinical history and one or more questions about its interpretation. The vast majority of the illustrations are of plain films of the chest, abdomen or bones, with a few bariums (single contrast only), IVUs and CT scans, and one or two ultrasound scans. The exercises are arranged in no particular order, the answers

being grouped together at the end of the book. Most of the answers discuss the radiological findings, differential diagnosis, and further management, and in some cases they are illustrated by additional procedures. The authors are a radiologist and a professor of medicine.

The effect of reading through the book is similar to that of spending a couple of hours in a well stocked and well documented film library. The book has the advantage that it fits easily into a coat pocket, but also the disadvantages of severe limitations in the range and number of cases shown, and the inevitable loss of image quality involved in bringing transparencies to the printed page. In particular, some of the detailed features described on the chest and bone radiographs were not convincingly perceptible in my copy of the book, and a few of the illustrations are reproduced at a size which is uncomfortably small. Although a few contentious points of interpretation and management have crept into the text, the authors have very largely avoided controversy.

The book is aimed at medical students, general practitioners and postgraduates in the core specialties and is based on the authors' premise that '... most clinicians are expected to be able to interpret their own radiographs'. Whilst I would give guarded support to this aim, I do find it difficult to accept the publishers claim that '... careful study of [this book] will provide a working knowledge of a radiological interpretation ...', an allegation which might have difficulty with the Advertising Standards Authority.

In summary, this is a brave attempt to provide a miniature film library for beginners in the field of radiologic interpretation. I am happy to recommend it on the principle that a little knowledge is less dangerous than no knowledge at all.

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Jeffcoate's Principles of Gynaecology (5th Edition), edited by V.R. Tindall. Pp. 722, illustrated. Butterworth Scientific Ltd., London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1987. £45.00

Sir Norman Jeffcoate wrote the first edition of his *Principles of Gynaecology* thirty years ago in 1957 and his last (4th) Edition appeared over ten years ago in 1974. During these years it became the standard textbook of gynaecology for most undergraduates and postgraduates in the English-speaking world. Professor Victor Tindall has taken on the job of revising for today's students this famous textbook – what a daunting task!

The popularity of Jeffcoate's *Principles of Gynaecology* was based on its style, never a turgid recitation of facts, but rather a very personal description with many views which are nothing if not dogmatic. He admits himself, in one of his prefaces, that he enunciates ideas which are often conjectural, but which are there to provoke thoughts and discussion. Professor Tindall has retained the lay-out and most of the contents of the last Edition and thus the essential flavour of the book is unchanged.

The most significant advances in the specialty over the last ten years have been in endocrinology, oncology and assisted fertility. These changes are covered adequately in this new Edition for the needs of undergraduates. Those working for higher examinations will need to read further and more widely in specialist reviews. Is this book aimed, therefore, at undergraduates or postgraduates? The price at £45 is most certainly more than most undergraduates will want to pay and postgraduates will need to read more widely about recent advances. As most libraries will already have the previous Edition of this book on their shelves it would, I think be difficult to justify purchase of this latest Edition.

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The Management of Leg Ulcers (2nd edition), T.J. Tyan. Pp. viii + 101, illustrated. Oxford Medical Publications, Oxford, 1987. £8.95 (paperback).

Terence Ryan's friendly little book on the management of leg ulceration has now gone into a second edition, four years after its first appearance. It is still easy to read and provides a straightforward didactic approach to its subject which is ideal for doctors in training and general practitioners, who want rapid and practical advice on ulcer management. The book is written by a dermatologist and therefore is strong on the conservative management of ulceration and its associated skin complications while it is less convincing on the surgical management of ulcers and the subsequent corrective venous surgery.

While there is a good bibliography at the end of the book, all statements in it are unreferenced and there is no attempt to discuss the relative merits of different forms of treatment and their results. This book is therefore the simple man's guide to leg ulceration, and it succeeds admirably at this level. Every general practice and leg ulcer clinic should purchase a copy.

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Multiple Choice Questions in General Medicine, Volume 1, edited by J.R. Lawrence & J.D. Hunter. Pp. 206. Churchill Livingstone, Melbourne, Edinburgh, London & New York, 1986. £5.95.

This is another book of multiple choice questions in general medicine which has been prepared by two Australian physicians with the needs of examination candidates very much in mind. In addition to 200 questions embracing a wide range of general medical topics there is a large section devoted to explaining the answers with back-up references, albeit somewhat parochial.

The multiple choice questions have been well prepared and well researched and present a very fair challenge. Some of the answers, however, are rather idiosyncratic. The use, for example, of methoxamine to combat ventricular fibrillation is certainly not a recognised indication in the United Kingdom. I would also cavil at the statement that ventricular bigemini may be associated with mitral valve prolapse. This would imply the subjection of every patient with ventricular ectopics to echocardiography in the absence of any other indication. A second problem is occasional carelessness in phraseology. An abnormal Schilling test may not be corrected by the administration of intrinsic factor in patients with post gastrectomy megaloblastic anaemia. In some patients, however, it is. The statement that an 'abnormal Schilling's test observed both with and without the administration of intrinsic factor is found in patients with post gastrectomy megaloblastic anaemia' is therefore impossible to answer correctly.

In general however I would recommend the book to candidates about to embark upon the multiple choice question part of the M.R.C.P. as it will provide useful practice. I would however have liked to have seen the book divided into chapters and above all for an index to have been included. Without these aids it is difficult to retrieve information without the chore of ploughing through the whole book. Perhaps in subsequent editions the authors may rectify these omissions.

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Neuropsychological Rehabilitation, Manfred J. Meier, Arthur L. Benton and Leonard Diller. Pp. ix + 475, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1987. £45.00.

This is an interesting and stimulating book, sufficiently interesting to be read on holiday in France. The 36 contributors have between them put forward many ideas and concepts that are probably not drawn together in any other single volume.

Anyone seeking a well-structured, comprehensive text on neuropsychological rehabilitation will, I am afraid, be disappointed. There is some overlap between chapters, though this often highlights the different opinions or approaches and is a strong point, not a weakness of the book. One minor criticism is a tendency of many authors to use as references for contentious or exciting topics articles that are totally unpublished or virtually inaccessible.

The third part of the book, which is supposed to review rehabilitation in different countries could well have been omitted. The 90 pages could either be removed, reducing the cost, or could have been used to cover other aspects of the subject.

The book should be of great interest to anyone concerned with the management of patients with brain damage. Though most work has been conducted on patients with stroke or head injury, the ideas will apply to