cytoplasmic ratios, ultrastructure and histological changes associated with cell death. The experimental work covered includes the effects of irradiation and immunologically mediated cell death. Cell death in development spermatogenesis and tumour pathology have separate chapters. The final chapter discusses the role of cell death in cellular hierarchies. The chapters are well cross-referenced so this material is easily extracted.

This is a well presented book, easy to read with good reproduction of photographs, particularly electron micrographs, and good line drawings. Some figures are a little crowded probably because authors wish to include extensive research details. The book should have wide appeal to postgraduate students of several specialties who wish to read into the subject. The book would be of value to all fields of medical science, both academic and service orientated. In addition, the layout of other chapters outside their sphere of direct interest with an introduction and summary and terms clearly defined, allows readers to cover peripheral topics easily. The discussion sections are open-ended, making them appealing to workers in these specialist fields.

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Rheumatology for General Practitioners, by H.L.F. Currey & Sally Hull. Pp. viii+259, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1987. £15.

This plastic-covered book is the eleventh in the Oxford General Practice series. One author is a professor of rheumatology and the other a lecturer in general practice. They offer 17 chapters, 3 appendices, and a list of 'useful addresses'. The first nine chapters focus on diseases and the next six on 'regional problems'. This approach seems to work fairly well although a consequence is the occasional need for the reader to turn back and forth through the book to follow the authors' line of thought about a particular problem.

A number of line drawings are used to illustrate the authors' points. I found these clear and most seemed to contribute to my understanding of the text, the clarity of which is admirable throughout.

The authors state that their 'book is for the general practitioner who wants to extend his knowledge and practical application of rheumatology, so that he may take a more central role in the management of his patients.' Since I believe that they have provided the minimum which any general practitioner should know at completion of vocational training, I do not know whether they have lower expectations of GPs than I do. In any case, what they write will be helpful in updating the knowledge of those of us whose original clinical training preceded the developments of modern rheumatology and immunology, although not the use of skills of examination, manipulation, and giving advice about exercises. In particular the appendix on investigations seemed very helpful.

This is the first volume in the Oxford General Practice series to have a title in the format '... for general practitioners' and perhaps this is why I feel in dispute with the authors about the level of attainment they believe they are describing. Seven of the other titles use the form '... in general practice' and I assume that the eminent members of the editorial board have some purpose in making the distinction to which I draw attention. One consequence that readers should note, however, is that there is an earlier competing title in the series, 'Locomotor Disability in General Practice' published in 1983. This is a longer and multi-author book. There is a considerable overlap in content between the present volume and the older one and prospective purchasers should check one against the other before deciding to buy either or both.

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Vascular Endothelium in Hemostasis and Thrombosis, M.A. Gimbrone. Pp. x+250, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £38.

This book represents the second in a series dedicated to contemporary issues in haemostasis and thrombosis. It is a multi-authored text divided into twelve sections with all the authors apart from one working in North America. This reflects the tremendous explosion in the last decade of research interest and development in the area of how the vascular endothelial cell interacts with the flowing blood constituents in the physiological control of the haemostatic mechanism. In each chapter a similar approach has been followed with an outline of how basic research tools of biochemistry, cell biology and molecular biology have been used and the positive experimental findings highlighted. This outline has been applied to the procoagulant reactions on the endothelial surface, prostacyclin, heparin-thrombin interactions, protein C regulation, fibrinolysis, von Willebrand factor, endothelial cell culture systems and wound healing. All this experimental work is interpreted with reviews of normal physiological events and their importance in pathological processes. This book will appeal primarily to the research worker studying vascular endothelial events and the physician and scientist working generally in a specialized haemostasis unit. Concerning the series as a whole the approach is similar to that adopted in the 'Clinics' and 'Seminars' type of publication. However, this text is aimed primarily at the specialized haemostasis clinical and research groups rather than a generalized haematological audience or junior doctor in training.

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