The book is well illustrated and produced throughout, layout is clear and easy on the eye, and although as a librarian I should not say so, I do not feel that the absence of an index in any way detracts from its usefulness.

It is worth buying by anyone with an interest in, or need for, medical information but ideally it should be purchased in bulk by librarians and given away as part of the library orientation package to both medical students and library staff. It is exactly the same format as MIMS (but slimmer) and should fit snugly in the other pocket of a white coat.

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Postgraduate Haematology. Third edition, edited by A.V. Hoffbrand and S.M. Lewis. Pp. vi + 715, illustrated. Heinemann Professional Publishing, London, 1989. £60.

This book has been an international best seller, so it clearly fulfils a need. What is this need, how does this edition compare with the second and does it retain those characteristics that made the first two editions so successful?

The answer to the first question is, I believe, given in the preface to the 1st edition where the editors clearly state that the book is not intended for reference but as a text of reasonable size, which will be particularly useful to those preparing for the MRCPATH.

As a result of its two-column format, the third edition is significantly longer than its predecessor. However, the total number of chapters (25 versus 21) and the pages (697 versus 757) is not very different, so the book still seems of eminently manageable size. Furthermore, many will, like me, find the new double-column layout more attractive.

The 3rd edition has four new chapters: an additional one on normal leucocytes and their benign disorders; a new section on chromosomes; separate chapters on CML and CLL; and a new account of the myelodysplastic states. In addition, at relevant points in the text, due prominence is given to recent advances in biochemistry, molecular biology and monoclonal antibody technology – subjects specifically cited by the authors as growth areas since the last edition.

Furthermore, the book stood up well when I looked up specific areas of interest to me. For example, the interleukins, interferons and TNF are all considered and, although I might argue with a few of the details, the section on hairy-cell disease and hairy cell variants is balanced and up-to-date.

In conclusion, then, I believe this 3rd edition retains the best selling characteristics of its two predecessors, while keeping abreast of recent advances. I am sure it will be as successful as the 1st and 2nd editions.

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Books Received

Antimicrobial Chemotherapy. Second edition, edited by David Greenwood. Pp. xi + 372, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1989. £20.00.

Common Medical Diagnoses: An Algorithmic Approach, Patrice M. Healey and Edwin J. Jacobson. Pp. xiv + 203, illustrated. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, London etc, 1990. £26.50. Softback.

Family Problems, Peter R. Williams. Pp. viii + 108, illustrated. Oxford University Press, London, New York, Tokyo, 1989. £12.50. Softback.

Manual of Surgical Clearance, Abel E. Moreyra and John B. Kostis. Pp. vii + 133, illustrated. Ishiyaku Euro-America Inc., USA, 1989. £16.25. Softback.

Medical Genetics – An Illustrated Outline, Andrew Read. Pp. viii + 152, illustrated. Gower Medical Publishing, London, New York, 1989. \$14.95.

Readings in Medical Sociology, edited by Sarah Cunningham-Burley & Neil M. McKeganey. Pp. x + 261, illustrated. Tavistock/Routledge, London, New York, 1989. £10.95. Paperback.

Reviews on Immunoassay Technology, Volume 3, edited by S.B. Oak. Pp. vii + 173, illustrated. Macmillan Press, Basingstoke, London, 1989. £45.

Yearbook of Medicine 1989, edited by David E. Rogers, Roger M. Des Prez *et al.* Pp. xxvii + 818, illustrated. Year Book Medical Publishers Inc., Chicago, London, Boca Raton, 1989. £42.00. Hardback.