of the splenic or hepatic flexure of the colon, rather than the flexure itself to visualize the ureter!

The remaining chapters provide a varied selection of points of interest from current surgical practice. There is an excellent review of endoscopic therapy for bleeding peptic ulcers which points the way forward in this field. The surgeon who wishes to understand the principles of laser therapy and their practical applications would be well advised to consult the chapter on that subject. One of the editors has contributed a chapter on thromboembolic disease from the perspective of a cardiac surgeon which gives a different emphasis than the usual view of the general surgeon. Other chapters which deserve mention are the extensive review of the management of thyroid cancer and the chapter on carcinoma of the oral cavity which contains numerous excellent illustrations. It is not possible to list all the chapters, but each makes enjoyable and interesting reading. There are three chapters on colorectal subjects, which interlock neatly, although I cannot understand why the word 'ostomy' is used in place of the more usual 'stoma'.

This book is based on lectures given to candidates for the College Fellowship examination. It is clearly aimed at this audience although many more experienced trainees and established consultants will find much of interest and value in its pages. If only for the section on iatrogenic surgical disease, this book should be available in the postgraduate library of every hospital.

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Diagnosing and Treating Mental Illness, Allan Lundy. Pp. 133, illustrated. Chelsea House Publishers, New York, Philadelphia, 1990. Hardback £14.95.

The foreword to the book states that 'It explains to all readers how professionals sift through various signs and symptoms to define the exact nature of the various mental disorders and fully describes the most effective means of alleviating them'. I wonder who the readers would be. The book is brief, comprehensible, easily readable, perhaps for the non-psychiatrist and for those in the early years of psychiatric training. Illustrations keep the reader interested and certainly there are good chapters explaining various forms of psychotherapy, but the book is rather short on biological treatments and there is no mention of ECT (electrical convulsive therapy) which is of tremendous value to the seriously depressed patient. Evaluation and diagnosis of mental illness are more DSM-III-R based and there is no mention of ICD-9 or 10 (Internal Classifications). The index gives only American addresses as expected and the reading list is rather short. The glossary part of the book is a good inclusion for the reader to refer to. Overall at £14.95 for 136 pages it is rather expensive for the British public.

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Emergency Psychiatry, Tom M. Brown, Allan I.F. Scott with Ian M. Pullen. Pp. xii + 208, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1990. Paperback £5.95.

Psychiatric emergencies are usually assessed by duty SHO's and registrars, many of whom have to deal with difficult problems by themselves with often only limited access to advice from their seniors. It is to these trainees that this book is addressed. It gives detailed practical help and instruction on a wide range of commonly encountered problems arising in patients sent for admission or seen in casualty departments, such as deliberate self-harm, alcohol and drug-related conditions, depression, acute psychosis, acute confusion, dementia and severe stress. This advice is presented mainly in the form of check lists, but also as 'practice points' which warn the readers of common pitfalls. The sections on difficult patients, such as those who make the hospital staff feel angry or helpless or who have a potential for violence, are particularly good and helpful. Emergencies in other settings, such as the general medical, surgical and obstetric wards and the patient's home are dealt with very adequately and there is a brief section on the use of mental health legislation (in England and Wales, in Scotland and in Northern Ireland) in emergencies.

Trainees who refer to this book when they are on duty will find their task of assessing and managing psychiatric emergencies much eased. It is highly recommended.

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Essentials of Respiratory Disease, 3rd edition, R.B. Cole and A.D. Mackay. Pp. 250, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1990. Paperback £14.95.

'Clear and readable' it sets out to be, clear and readable it is. Its 250 pages cover concisely all important aspects of respiratory assessment, physiology and disease. The balance of material is good and the authors wisely resist the temptation to place undue emphasis on fashionable problems such as sleep apnoea and AIDs. This is not a robust library reference book, but is an ideal volume for medical students and doctors in training to borrow from the library for a succinct and factual account of respiratory diseases.

There are errors, such as the limit of resolution of CT scanning, and one can discuss whether mesothelioma causes clubbing and whether the patient on treatment for pulmonary thromboembolism with anti-coagulants should be kept in bed for a week, but overall this is a book to be recommended. It deserves a wide audience and, if its entry into the Library of Congress Catalogue is corrected, I hope it will get one.

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