The editors must be congratulated on maintaining the standard and internal consistency throughout this volume. The temptation to spend just over £50 on this book should not be resisted.

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Plants in Cardiology, A. Hollman. Pp. vii + 40, illustrated. BMJ, London, 1992. Paperback £5.95.

Plants in Cardiology is a lovely book. A much greater contribution to general understanding and awareness is made by specialist publications of this type than the plethora of general cardiology textbooks which are available.

The author is not only consulting cardiologist at University College Hospital, London but a member of the committee of the Chelsea Physic Garden and anyone who has taken the opportunities afforded by the Royal College of Physicians to visit the Chelsea Physic Garden will (provided the weather was reasonable) have favourable memories, and those who have not visited should be encouraged to do so.

At first sight, 40 pages for £5.95 is fiercely expensive. However, it is a fascinating read, and will be very valuable to have on the shelf as a source of reference. The British Cardiac Society has had its critics in the past for decisions the committee has made, but the decision to support this publication (which has been produced in the *British Heart Journal* as a series of articles over the past year) is excellent use of the Cardiac Society's funds and they are to be commended for it. My only slight concern is that, as in my experience with many BMJ publications, I fear for the binding over a period of time. I would not, however, put anyone off purchasing or indeed giving as a small gift, this most unusual and informative little book.

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Gynaecologic Oncology, 2nd edition, 2 volumes, edited by Malcolm Coddleson. Pp. 1525, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, Tokyo, 1991. Hardback £195.00.

There are very few books that leave one with such joy and excitement as these two volumes of *Gynaecologic Oncology*. They certainly must rank as classics and it is hard to imagine that there are any serious competitors. The two volumes have been edited by Malcolm Coddleson, Professor of gynaecological oncology from Sydney, Australia, and he has assembled virtually the cream of gynaecological oncologists throughout the world. Not only are there oncologists, but there are basic scientists, radiologists, cytologists, statisticians, epidemiologists, as well as the traditional oncological chemotherapist and surgeon. The reviewer mentions this because all the above are experts in their particular fields and they bring to these texts expertise in individual subjects that normally one would not expect in books of this type.

Five of these parts are in the first volume of some 750 pages while the remaining 12 are in the second volume of 1,600 pages. A monumental task, but a large subject. Professor Coddleson has skilfully covered the fundamental principles and diagnostic aids in the first volume with such titles as *The Statistical Basis to Oncological Enquiry*, *Quantitative Pathology and Carcinogenesis* amongst the early exciting chapters. Diagnostic aids are very much up-to-date, including *Magnetic Resonance Imaging* and *Immunoscintigraphy*. Then follow traditional chapters on vulva, vagina and cervix, uterus and ovaries. Rare tumours are also covered and then the concluding section of the book is related to surgical techniques. All operations, minor and major and complex are covered under this heading. *Complications of Radical Therapy* is also an excellent section, as is the one on *Surgical Reconstruction of the Gynaecologic Oncology Patient*. Last, but certainly not least, is the chapter on Aftercare which includes such remarkable subjects as the psychological process of recovery from gynaecological cancer, and the last chapter, written by two obviously very devoted doctors, on attitudes to dying.

These two volumes must be regarded as the gold standard in relation to textbooks dealing with gynaecological oncology. They are essential reading for anyone involved, either directly or indirectly, with managing women with cancer. Coddleson's *Gynaecologic Oncology* must certainly be the best.

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Acute Myocardial Infarction, Contemporary Management in Internal Medicine Series, edited by David McCall. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, Tokyo, 1992. Hardback £22.50.

This book is published as one of a series of monographs in internal medicine which have included titles such as critical care, geriatric medicine and rheumatoid arthritis. The editorial board, headed by the professor of medicine are all based at the University of Texas at San Antonio. The contributing authors to this monograph are also largely based at San Antonio, though there are contributors from Alabama, Missouri and Georgia.

One might imagine from this cast that this would be a rather parochial view of the management of myocardial infarction but this is far from the case. The editorial board and, presumably, Professor McCall have provided a well-balanced and up to date view of the subject which is as applicable on this side of the Atlantic as it is on theirs. Chapters include epidemiology, clinical presentation, thrombolysis, management of arrhythmias and haemodynamic complications and finally, risk stratification. The only major area which is not discussed to any extent is cardiac rehabilitation which is perhaps a pity bearing in mind the target audience which is presumably specialists in internal medicine.

Naturally, in such a monograph, therapeutic strategies are rather more geared to American practice than British. The standard thrombolytic in use is clearly TPA though the other agents, anistreplase and streptokinase are discussed in detail and helpful summaries of the major

intervention trials in this area are given. One minor anomaly is that it is recommended that streptokinase be given with hydrocortisone and an anti-histamine to prevent allergic reactions, something which is very rarely practised in Europe.

There is naturally an emphasis too on early intervention after myocardial infarction, particularly in the final chapter by Professors Kiesz and Bailey, where they make the bold statement that '... 30% of patients admitted with myocardial infarct will require revascularization or die within the first 30 days.' This naturally reflects experience in the various TIMI studies in the use of early angiography and PTCA, a practice which is not widely accepted or practicable in the UK. The earlier chapter on risk stratification, however, by Professor O'Rourke stresses the use of noninvasive means to identify high-risk patients and target angiography accordingly.

This series of 'Contemporary Management in Internal Medicine' is presumably the Southern States' equivalent of Medical Clinics of North America, aiming to update generalists in new advances in specialist fields. To my mind the format of the book and the style is more digestible than Medical Clinics and the use of learning points in a broad margin is helpful rather than distracting. The authors and the editor should be congratulated on providing a readable and balanced account of a complex and rapidly changing field.

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Recent Advances in Orthopaedics 6, edited by A. Catterall. Pp. 175, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, Tokyo, 1992. Hardback £32.95.

This, the latest issue of *Recent Advances in Orthopaedics*, has set itself the difficult task of trying to reflect the current changes in orthopaedics and also to look into a crystal ball to predict the future of orthopaedics in the next decade. On this basis, along with chapters by leading orthopaedic surgeons, there are two chapters on the epidemiology of both 'cold' and 'hot' orthopaedics, a knowledge of which, in a future with financial constraints, is essential for the planning of a service.

All the chapters have been written by acknowledged leaders in their fields, and have managed to produce short but comprehensive reviews of the subjects chosen. These reflect one view of the important advances in orthopaedics but cannot hope to be extensive. There are excellent articles on brachial plexus surgery, flexor tendon repair, the increasingly popular shoulder arthroscopy, as well as the new imaging techniques available in CT and MRI scanning. The increasing problems of the adolescent dysplastic hip and hip revision are also well covered.

One chapter deals with the management of major disasters. I am saddened that it is felt that this is a recent advance, since a large number of excellent papers and articles have been written before on this subject. The advance would be to find a way for the recommendations to be adhered to in the emergency situation.

This is an excellent book for the experienced orthopaedic surgeon wishing for an 'update' or the

trainee preparing for an examination. It is reasonably priced and presented, although there are a number of typographical errors which do detract from an otherwise most readable volume.

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Tumours and Tumourlike Lesions of Soft Tissues, edited by Vito Ninfo, E.B. Chung and A. Cavazzana. Pp. 292, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, Melbourne, New York, Tokyo, 1991. Hardback £60.00.

The model reference in soft tissue tumour pathology is still Enzinger & Weiss's invaluable *Soft Tissue Tumours* (CV Mosby, Philadelphia, 2nd ed., 1988). The editors of the present work acknowledge this, and declare their intention to present a quick, concise reference tool and companion to the microscope that also includes more up to date information on immunohistochemistry, cytogenetics, flow cytometry and molecular genetics. The result is a succinct and readable text which weighs much less but covers almost the whole field albeit with less details, particularly of the commoner entities. Nine pathologists, including the editors, contribute the 12 chapters in various co-authorial combinations, resulting in more objectivity and less unevenness than in some similar works. All but two of the writers are from Europe (the cities of Padua, Göteborg and Kiel), which broadens the approach; American pathologists, for example, have a tendency to overlook the British literature, but most chapters give excellent and full lists of references up to 1989, and even on occasion 1990, so the book is (for a book) reasonably up to date. It is, however, disappointing to see synovial sarcoma, in spite of a current account of its nature, still described under the heading of tumours of synovial tissue. Illustrations are copious and pertinent; a few lack contrast, but the electron micrographs are well reproduced. Minor editorial lapses include some repetition about Ewing's sarcoma (in the chapters on primitive neuroectodermal tumours, and tumours of uncertain histogenesis), an occasional reference numbered in the text but omitted from the bibliography and, trivially, transposition of the captions of Figures 4.22 and 4.33. These points apart, having had this as a bench handbook for a few weeks, I found it useful and convenient. The price is reasonable, and I can recommend its purchase for diagnostic histopathology departments, and perhaps as background knowledge for the more interested surgeons and clinical oncologists working in this area.

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Vascular Anaesthesia, edited by J.A. Caplan. Pp. 700, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, Tokyo, 1991. Hardback £65.00.

This is a large, strongly bound textbook with easy, clear printing in which photographs, tables and figures