pathology. Each system is dealt with in turn, in most cases by an acknowledged expert on the histopathology of the diseases under discussion. The volume works well as a whole and gives an encyclopaedic view. The editors acknowledge in their preface that having so many section authors can lead to difficulty and there are some examples of duplication, such as the two sections on extra-hepatic biliary atresia. There is also variation between sections. Many are well illustrated with high quality colour photographs, a minority have just a few black and white prints. The chapters on the circulatory and respiratory systems and on the pathology of tropical infections are excellent.

Although a long read from cover to cover, I expect many doctors will wish to possess this volume and to use it for reference. Of the two volumes, my personal opinion is that Volume 1 (*The Principles of Pathology*) is the better. The publishers have decided that, in paperback, the volumes can be bought separately. Some purchasers may wish to do that.

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Leukemia and Lymphoma Reviews 1, edited by Aaron Polliack. Pp. 381, illustrated. Harwood Academic Publishers, Reading, Paris, Tokyo, Pennsylvania, 1992. Hardback £36.00.

All of these articles have previously been published in the journal *Leukemia and Lymphoma*. Although the concept of collecting together invited reviews from a specialist journal and publishing them in one book is an interesting one, I am not convinced the experiment has been entirely successful. Many of the 36 invited articles will be of interest to clinicians involved in the management of haemato-oncological disease; the topics covered range from new cytotoxic drugs such as 2-chlorodeoxyadenosine to the molecular biology of B-cell lymphomas so this book is suitable for 'dipping into'. Most of the reviews are excellent, and the text is well laid out with colour plates collected at the back of the book, and an index which is rather bald but probably adequate.

Unfortunately this collection does not provide a comprehensive review of leukaemia and lymphoma and any reader seeking such a text should look elsewhere. I have a strong impression that once this volume is parked on my bookshelf, it will gather dust but my lack of enthusiasm relates to the fact I will not remember if a particular subject is covered in this book – so I will reach for a reference work or carry out a literature search.

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Oxford Textbook of Clinical Pharmacology and Drug Therapy, second edition, D.G. Grahame-Smith and J.K. Aronson. Pp. xviii + 756, illustrated. Oxford University Press, New York, Oxford, 1992. Hardback £55.00.

The first edition of this Oxford-based textbook of clinical pharmacology and therapeutics quickly established itself as a major text among undergraduates and prescribing doctors, and has gone through four reprints since 1984. The subject has moved on, however, and important advances have been made in therapeutics, and so this second edition is welcome. It is larger than the first, and the authors have wisely enlisted the help of specialist colleagues to assist in writing the chapters on various areas of therapeutic practice.

An attractive feature of the book, particularly the earlier chapters on the basic science of clinical pharmacology, is the use of seminal research papers to illustrate fundamental principles, to which the enquiring student may refer for further reading.

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Gynaecology, J. Rymer, A.N. Fish and M. Chapman. Pp. 128, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, Tokyo, Melbourne, 1992. Paperback £7.95.

With claims of being 'user friendly', 'unique' and 'essential' this small book promised much but delivered little. What should have been a collection of superb examples of different gynaecological pathologies, techniques and treatments, has ended up failing to provide a stimulus to learning the subject. The level aimed at is never clearly defined, and detail is variable, and there are missed opportunities to inform almost on every page. It is often a missing phrase here and there, that detracts so much from the text; for example, if the gynaecological history is taken, then list a full account of what is required (and include enquiry about intermenstrual and post-coital bleeding).

The text accompanying this fine collection of photographs is often clumsy ('it is not worth investigating women who miscarry – unless they have had three . . .'), oversimplified to the point of being no use at all or open to question (does a complete abortion *really* need an evacuation? Dilatation and evacuation is *not* usually with suction). There is an inconsistent lack of definitions, and the recurrent use of often unexplained abbreviations will be frustrating to those not already familiar with gynaecology.

The photographs themselves are not always clear and could sometimes do with highlights or labels. There is, for example, a photograph of an ultrasound scan showing cerebral toxoplasmosis with nothing to indicate the features of this rare condition. Why show the instruments for laparoscopy and not for D and C, and which instrument is which anyway? What features of the picture of vaginal cytology show oestrogenic stimulation? They do, however, include some fine examples of gynaecological malignancy. Clinical stagings are sometimes difficult to remember, so this is a useful *aide memoire*. It is a pity that the pictures of such common conditions such as ectopic pregnancy appear to have been taken from museum specimens.

There are too many errors to recommend this small volume to students, and this is surprising given the