

Postgraduate Medical Journal

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The Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine was founded by a group of London consultants after the First World War to assist postgraduates, particularly those coming to London from the Commonwealth, to pursue their studies. The Fellowship first published the *Postgraduate Medical Journal* to give informa-

tion about lectures, conferences and courses and to provide a monthly review of all branches of medicine.

Postgraduate Medical Journal publishes original papers on subjects of current clinical importance and welcomes review articles with extensive, up-to-date bibliographies as guides to further reading. Several symposia are published every year, each devoted to a single subject and written, by invitation, by specialists in different disciplines. Most issues include authoritative Current Surveys of clinical problems, as well as well-documented Reports of cases of particular interest, Correspondence and Book Reviews.

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Books received

- The Genetics of Mental Disorders.* By ELIOT SLATER and VALERIE COWIE. Pp. 413, illustrated. London: Oxford University Press, 1971. £5.50.
- Gonadotrophins and Ovarian Development.* Edited by W. R. BUTT, A. C. CROOKE and MARGARET RYLE. Pp. 399, illustrated. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1970. £6.00.
- Frozen Section in Surgical Diagnosis.* By ANDREW SHIVAS and SUZANNE G. FRASER. Pp. 261, illustrated. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1971. £6.00.
- Clinical Chemistry and Automation.* By RONALD ROBINSON. Pp. 187, illustrated. London: Charles Griffin & Co. Ltd, 1971. £3.20.

- Seventh Symposium on Advanced Medicine.* Edited by IAN A. D. BOUCHIER. Proceedings of a Conference held at the Royal College of Physicians of London in February 1971. Pp. 345, illustrated. London: Pitman Medical, 1971. £3.00.
- Cancer Chemotherapy.* Edited by F. ELKERBOUT, P. THOMAS and A. ZWAVELING. A collection of papers presented at the Postgraduate Course on Cancer Chemotherapy in Leiden in September 1970. Pp. 410, illustrated. Leiden: Leiden University Press, 1971. (Boerhaave Series for Postgraduate Medical Education.) No price given.
- Legal Abortion.* By ANTHONY HORDEN. Pp. 322. Oxford: Pergamon Press Ltd, 1971. £3.75.

New editions

- Textbook of Medical Treatment.* Edited by STANLEY ALSTEAD, ALASTAIR G. MACGREGOR and RONALD H. GIRDWOOD. Twelfth edition. Pp. 694, illustrated. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1971. £4.25.
- Biochemical Values in Clinical Medicine.* By ROBERT D. EASTHAM. Fourth edition. Pp. 191. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd, 1971. £1.00.

- Shaw's Textbook of Gynaecology.* Edited by JOHN HOWKINS and GORDON BOURNE. Ninth edition. Pp. 823, illustrated. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1971. £4.50.

- Medical Treatment (Volume 4).* Edited by KENNETH MACLEAN and GEORGE SCOTT. Third edition. Pp. 268. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1971. £2.25.

Book reviews

Lidocaine in the Treatment of Ventricular Arrhythmias

Proceedings of a Symposium held in Edinburgh in September 1970. Edited by D. B. SCOTT and D. G. JULIAN. Pp. 240, illustrated. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1971. £3.00.

This Symposium was held in Edinburgh immediately prior to the Fifth World Congress of Cardiology in London and therefore a formidable panel of expert participants was assembled.

Since the advent of coronary intensive care arrhythmias have been reported in up to 90% of patients with acute cardiac infarction. The prevention of significant arrhythmias has therefore proved of even more interest and value to the patient than DC conversion of established ventricular arrhythmias. Lidocaine has long been used as a local anaesthetic but only recently has its value been appreciated in the treatment of ventricular arrhythmias. This Symposium was therefore convened to review the topic from many angles.

It opened with papers on the electro-physiological and metabolic factors concerned in the genesis of arrhythmias including Vaughan-Williams' classification of anti-arrhythmia drugs into three distinctive groups. This was followed by a session on arrhythmias in myocardial infarction and the use of Lidocaine in both this context, and also in ventricular arrhythmias unrelated to infarction, including its use in patients under general anaesthesia. The third session dealt with pharmacology and toxicology of the drug including species differences in metabolism. Blood levels of Lidocaine and its degradation products were reviewed after different routes of administration and in relationship to toxicity and clinical efficacy. The final session dealt with haemodynamic effects of various anti-arrhythmic agents and the action of beta adrenergic blocking drugs in ventricular arrhythmias.

Many minor disagreements emerge but it is clearly understood that there is as yet insufficient evidence for employing Lidocaine as a prophylactic agent in all patients with cardiac infarction. There are still difficulties and differences concern-

ing which arrhythmias are the sinister ones requiring treatment and which can be left alone. Again certain types of ventricular dysrhythmia appear refractory to this drug and there was universal agreement that no one drug is the panacea for arrhythmia nor is such a substance likely to be forthcoming.

This is a most excellent review of the topic as intended by the editors and retains the high standard set by the Edinburgh School. It is strongly recommended for all physicians and anaesthetists concerned with intensive care of all sorts (as well as coronary) and should certainly be of similar interest to pharmacologists and electro-physiologists.

The Blood Supply of Bone

By MURRAY BROOKES. Pp. 338, illustrated. London: Butterworths, 1971. £6.50.

The blood supply of bone is a fascinating topic; its study provides a natural meeting ground for anatomists, physiologists, biologists and orthopaedic surgeons. At least it should: but all too often the meetings are thematic monologues with no marriage of minds and no intellectual offspring. The material in this excellent book ranges so widely that it should help to remedy this narrowness and stimulate fresh lines of thought.

The author, who is well known for his researches and writings in this field, tells us that the book was originally planned as an introduction to the anatomical study of the vascular architecture of the skeleton. Fortunately, he abandoned such limitations and he has given us far more. He discusses not only such subjects as bone formation and growth, but also fracture repair, osteoarthritis, bone mechanics and many others.

The written style is clear and is matched by the production. The numerous illustrations are well printed, the paper is good and the book pleasing to handle. It can be thoroughly recommended to a wide variety of readers.

Postgraduate Medical Journal: Notice to Contributors

Typescripts (two complete copies) should be sent to the Editor, Dr A. A. G. Lewis, Postgraduate Medical Journal, 9 Great James Street, London, W.C.1. Papers should be typewritten on one side of the paper only, with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch margin, and the lines should be double-spaced. In addition to the title of the paper there should be a 'running title' (for page headings) of not more than 45 letters (including spaces). The paper should bear the name of the author(s) with their degrees and descriptions and of the laboratory or research institute where the work has been carried out. The full postal address of the principal author should be given as a footnote. (The proofs will be sent to this author and address unless otherwise indicated.)

Arrangement. Papers should normally be divided into: (a) Summary, brief, self-contained and embodying the main conclusions; (b) Introduction; (c) Materials and methods; (d) Results, as concise as possible (both tables and figures illustrating the same data will rarely be permitted); (e) Discussion and conclusion; (f) Acknowledgments; (g) References.

References. Only papers closely related to the author's work should be included, exhaustive lists should be avoided. References should be made by giving the author's surname, with the year of publication in parentheses. When reference is made to a work by three authors all names should be given when cited for the first time, and thereafter only the first name, adding *et al.*, e.g. Smith *et al.* (1958). The '*et al.*' form should always be used for works by four or more authors. If several papers by the same author and from the same year are cited, a, b, c, etc., should be put after the year of publication, e.g. Smith *et al.* (1958a). All references should be brought together at the end of the paper in alphabetical order. References to articles and papers should mention (a) name(s) of the author(s); (b) year of publication in parentheses; (c) title of paper; (d) title of journal in full, underlined; (e) volume number; number of first page of article. References to books and monographs should include (a) name(s) and initials of author(s) or editor(s); year of publication in parentheses; (b) title, underlined; (c) edition; (d) page referred to; (e) publisher; (f) place.

Standard usage. The *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* is used as a reference for all spelling and hyphenation. Verbs which contain the suffix *ize* (*ise*) and their derivatives should be spelt with the *z*. Statistics and measurements should always be given in figures, i.e. 10 min, 20 hr, 5 ml, except where the number begins the sentence. When the number does *not*

refer to a unit of measurement, it is spelt out except where the number is greater than one hundred.

Abbreviations. Abbreviations for some of the commoner units are given below. The abbreviation for the plural of a unit is the same as that for the singular unless confusion is likely to arise.

gram(s)	g	second(s)	sec
kilogram(s)	kg	cubic millimetre(s)	mm ³
milligram(s)		millimetre(s)	mm
(10 ⁻³ g)	mg	centimetre(s)	cm
microgram(s)		millicurie(s)	mCi
(10 ⁻⁶ g)	μg	millilitre(s)	ml
nanogram(s)		pound(s)	lb
(10 ⁻⁹ g)	ng	milliequivalent	mEq
picogram(s)			
(10 ⁻¹² g)	pg	R _F values	R _F
hour(s)	hr		
minute(s)	min	gravitational acceleration	g
micron(s)	μ	per cent	%

Example: mg/100 ml, for biochemical values; mEq/l

Figures. In the text these should be given Arabic numbers, e.g. Fig. 3. They should be marked on the backs with the name(s) of the author(s) and the title of the paper. Where there is any possible doubt as to the orientation of a figure the top should be marked with an arrow. Each figure must bear a reference corresponding to a similar number in the text. Photographs and photomicrographs should be unmounted glossy prints and should not be retouched. Line diagrams should be on separate sheets; they should be drawn with black Indian ink on white paper and should be about four times the area of the final reproduction. Lines and lettering should be of sufficient thickness and size to stand reduction to one-half or one-third. Letters and numbers must be written lightly in pencil. Whenever possible, the originals of line diagrams, prepared as described above, should be submitted and not photographs. The legends of all the figures should be typed together on a single sheet of paper headed 'Legends to Figures'.

Tables. There should be as few tables as possible and these should include only essential data; the data should not be crowded together. The main heading should be in capitals with an Arabic number, e.g. TABLE 2. Each table must have a caption in small letters. Vertical lines should not be used.

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