

Postgraduate Medical Journal

Editor

IAN GILLILAND M.D. F.R.C.P.

Assistant Editor

B. I. HOFFBRAND M.A. D.M. M.R.C.P.

Advisory Editorial Board

A. G. Apley F.R.C.S.

D. Barltrop B.Sc. M.D. F.R.C.P. D.C.H.

E. M. M. Besterman M.A. M.D. F.R.C.P.

A. M. Breckenridge B.Sc. M.R.C.P.

E. H. Brown D.M. F.R.C.P. D.C.H.

A. E. R. Buckle F.R.C.S. F.R.C.O.G.

J. O. Craig F.R.C.S.I. D.M.R.D. F.F.R.

A. H. Crisp M.D. F.R.C.P. F.R.C.P.Ed. F.R.C.Psych.

D.P.M.

Sir Robert Drew K.C.B. C.B.E. F.R.C.P. F.R.A.C.P.

R. Eban M.A. M.R.C.P. F.F.R.

H. Ellis M.A. D.M. F.R.C.S.

R. Goulding B.Sc. M.D. F.R.C.P.

J. P. Hopewell F.R.C.S.

D. G. James M.A. M.D. F.R.C.P.

S. B. Karani D.P.H. F.R.C.P. F.A.C.C.P.

R. S. Kocen T.D. F.R.C.P.

D. M. Krikler M.D. F.R.C.P. F.R.C.P.Ed. F.A.C.C.

B. Lewis Ph.D. M.D. F.R.C.P. M.R.C.Path.

C. E. Newman C.B.E. M.D. F.R.C.P.

K. I. Nissen F.R.C.S.

J. W. Paulley M.D. F.R.C.P.

T. A. J. Pranker M.D. F.R.C.P.

D. A. Pyke M.D. F.R.C.P.

J. H. Swallow M.D. F.R.C.P.

P. Turner B.Sc. M.D. F.R.C.P.

Editorial Representative for Australia

Professor Thomas Stapleton M.A. D.M. M.R.C.P. D.C.H.

Editorial Assistants

Mrs J. M. Coops B.Sc. & Mrs L. Edmondston-Low

Postgraduate Medical Journal is published monthly for the Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine by Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. The annual subscription is £16.00 (\$54.00) post free, and the price of single issues £1.50 (\$5.00) postage extra. If payments are made by bank transfer, all charges shall be at the remitter's expense. Orders and business correspondence should be addressed to Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EL (tel: Oxford 40201).

All editorial correspondence should be addressed to The Editor, The Postgraduate Medical Journal, Chandos House, 2 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 9LE.

Advertisement enquiries and bookings should be addressed to Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EL.

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 information 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.

A 'Notice to Contributors' is published on the inside back cover of this issue. The Editor reserves the right to make changes which may clarify or condense papers where this is considered desirable.

© The contents of this Journal are copyright and, subject to the provisions of Section 7 of the Copyright Act, 1956, they may not be copied, adapted or reproduced without permission. Requests for permission to reproduce material elsewhere, either in whole or in part, should be addressed to The Editor, Postgraduate Medical Journal, Chandos House, 2 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 9LE. This Journal is covered by *Current Contents* and *Biological Abstracts*.

Books received

- Techniques of Anaesthesia.* By J. A. THORNTON and C. J. LEVY. Pp. 481, hard cover. Chapman and Hall Ltd, London, 1974. £7.00.
- A Colour Atlas of Forensic Pathology.* By G. AUSTIN GRESHAM. Pp. 304, hard cover. Wolfe Publishing Limited, London, 1975. £7.00.
- Going Gently* (a novel). By ROBERT C. S. DOWNS. Pp. 110, hard cover. Faber and Faber, London, 1975. £2.20.

- Aims and Motives in Clinical Medicine.* By B. P. BLISS and A. G. JOHNSON. Pp. viii + 188, soft cover. Pitman Medical, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1975. £3.50.
- An Introduction to Medical Automation.* By L. C. PAYNE and P. T. S. BROWN 1975. Pp. viii + 158, soft cover, illustrated. Pitman Medical, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. £4.00.

Book reviews

General Pathology

By WALTER and ISRAEL. Pp. 681, illustrated, 4th edn. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. 1974, £10.00.

The latest edition of this well known and long established comprehensive textbook of general pathology maintains the high standards of the previous editions. The text is concise, scholarly and easy to read. The contents have been adapted to cover virology and immunology and also to incorporate recent advances in the more traditional topics of morbid anatomy, biochemical and physiological pathology, haematology and bacteriology. The postgraduate wishing to specialize will find this book invaluable as a general background to all areas of pathology, while the wealth of clearly presented information will give the undergraduate a firm basis for his first medical degree. References at the end of each chapter form a useful guide for further reading. Some specialists may regard the treatment of particular subjects rather scanty, only forty-two pages being devoted to haematology and even fewer to chemical pathology. The overall emphasis on tissue pathology is further demonstrated by the illustrations, the majority of which show gross pathological specimens or histological sections rather than diagrams or illustrations of biochemical or haematological abnormalities. Leukaemia, for instance, is illustrated with histological sections of the liver in the chronic leukaemias not with pictures of the blood or bone marrow appearances. These are small criticisms, however, and there is no doubt that this book is excellent value for money and will remain popular.

Aids to Postgraduate Medicine

By J. L. BURTON. Pp. vii+136, illustrated, soft cover. Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone, 1974. £1.25.

Your reviewer believes that the major benefit the MRCP examination confers on suffering humanity is that the correct preparation for the former aids in the delivery of health care to the latter. This book, written by a senior lecturer in dermatology, purports to help those battling with examiners but could, I believe, prove of little use to them and could be positively harmful to the practice of sound clinical medicine. An adequate factual knowledge is important, but this must be firmly based on correct balance and perspective. A book that lists the causes of 'this', and the manifestations of 'that', can only help if examiners persist in asking candidates to name the causes of frontal bossing. The imbalance is typified by SBE which appears under the causes of the nephrotic syndrome (for which it is hardly ever responsible) and not amongst the causes of renal failure (which is an important manifestation of the disease and a preventable cause of end-stage renal failure).

The errors of omission are considerable. Bronchial carcinoma does not appear under the causes of mediastinal masses, although oesophageal neoplasms do! Carcinoma and lymphoma are now frequently recognized causes of the nephrotic syndrome but have not yet entered the list the author has patently acquired from other sources. There are frank errors of fact. Sideroblastic anaemias are here defined without a statement that the granules should be ringed (the author, incidentally, misses out one of the commonest causes, namely alcoholism). Kimmelsteil and Wilson described *nodular intercapillary glomerulosclerosis* in diabetics, not the nephrotic syndrome which occurs just as commonly with diffuse pathological changes. One could go on and on.

There are other very serious criticisms. Many of the author's lists tend to have no obvious logic behind them, or are based on, at the best, controversial and, at the worst plainly wrong, aetiological premises. What is metabolic about myeloma? Lists of things that are not logically formed on the basic disciplines of anatomy, physiology and pathology throw great strains on the best of memories. My final and major criticism is that this book makes of medicine a blinkered, limited discipline which runs counter to the spirit of uncertainty, exploration and adventure that makes the practice of clinical medicine (and even studying for its exams) such an exciting and satisfying calling for so many.

Principles of Chemical Pathology

By T. A. HYDE and T. F. DRAISEY. Pp. 656. London: Butterworth, 1974. £9.50.

The title of this otherwise excellent book is misleading. Principles—common and general ideas underlying a diversity of practical procedures—are not discussed in any depth. What the authors offer is a readable, sane, concise, comprehensive and astonishingly up-to-date handbook of clinical chemical practice with neither more nor less basic chemical pathology, biochemistry and clinical medicine than is needed to make sense of the subject. This is a remarkable achievement. Chemical pathologists as a breed suffer from a lack of corrective feedback about the value and limitations of their tests at the bedside; and, more even than their clinician colleagues, they depend for up-to-date information on the printed word. As far as any one reviewer can judge, the present authors have overcome these difficulties more successfully than most. On bread-and-butter topics they write with the authority of wide practical experience, and their unadorned style admirably conveys their commonsense views. On specialized subjects they have chosen their sources carefully and critically. Inevitably they are at their best—and their best is very good indeed—when discussing the laboratory aspects of their speciality: the chapters on automation,

Postgraduate Medical Journal: Notice to Contributors

Typescripts (two complete copies) should be sent to the Editor, Dr I. Gilliland, Postgraduate Medical Journal, Chandos House, 2 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 9LE. Papers should be typewritten on one side of the paper only, with a 1½ 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	percent	%

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.

Page proofs will be submitted to the contributors for minor corrections and should be returned to the Editor within 3 days. Major alterations to the text cannot be accepted.

Offprints. These may be purchased if ordered on the form which will be sent to the senior author with the proofs.

* Titles of papers should be cited in their original form.