

Books received

- Administration in General Practice.* By HELEN OWEN. ix+143 pp., hard cover, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London, 1975. £4.20.
- Arthritis and Allied Conditions—A New and Successful Approach.* By WILLIAM W. FOX. Pp. 61, soft cover. Published privately; printed by Ranelagh Press, 1975. £3.50.
- A Colour Atlas of Paediatrics (Wolfe Medical Atlases - 13).* By MARTHA DYNISKI-KLEIN. Pp. 416, hard cover, illustrated. Wolfe Publishing Ltd, London, 1975. £10.00.
- Conybear's Textbook of Medicine.* Ed. by W. H. MANN. Pp. 887, 16th edn, hard cover, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1975. £14.00.
- The Faber Medical Dictionary.* Ed. by SIR CECIL WAKELEY. Bt., revised by J. G. BATE. Pp. 483, hard cover. Faber and Faber Ltd, London, 1975. £6.95.
- An Introduction to Electrocardiography.* By JOHN HAMER. viii+125 pp. illustrated, hard cover. Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1975. £2.75.

Correspondence

SIR—Because of an error on the part of the organizers, I was not informed about the presentation of my data at the Clotrimazole symposium and did not see the manuscript of the paper that appeared under my name (*Postgraduate Medical Journal* (1974), 50 (Suppl. 1), 61).

Since 583 of the 651 cases are from my practice, I must clarify the statements made in the paragraphs 'Patients and Methods' and 'Summary'. Only then will the data be comprehensible and correct.

The problem was to ascertain how long it took for the dermatomycoses to be cured by clotrimazole irrespective of previous treatment. We treated patients immediately, often on the basis of microscopical examination but always before confirmation of the exact mycological diagnosis by culture. Often, owing to lack of time, we had to be satisfied with a clinical diagnosis. Accordingly, microscopy and/or culture before, during and after treatment were carried out as frequently as was possible but in no cases at weekly intervals

nor a week after completion of treatment. In the case of patients in whom hyphae were demonstrated in scales before clotrimazole treatment (250), fungi pathogenic to the skin were not always grown and in the case of positive cultures hyphae were not always present on microscopy. The 309 organisms isolated were: *Candida* sp. 65 (21%), *Trichophyton* sp. 184 (60%), *Epidermophyton* 21 (7%), (only on microscopy): *Malassezia furfur* 35 (11%), *Nocardia minutissima* 4 (1%). Microscopy and culture before and after treatment were available for 273 and 266 cases respectively. Cultures were made during therapy in 255 cases.

Clotrimazole was used until a clinical cure was achieved or no further effect was to be expected, up to 4 weeks in about 40% and 4-8 weeks in a further 40% of cases. Longer treatment was usually necessary in infections of the soles of the feet and the palms of the hands and in the case of follicular types. The time at which improvement occurred was recorded in each case. Table 1 should then read:

Diagnosis	No.	Cure	Improvement	Failure
Candidiasis	85	67(79%)	18(21%)	0
Epidermophytosis/Trichophytosis	471	343(73%)	98(21%)	30(6%)
Pityriasis versicolor	52	42(81%)	3(6%)	7(13%)
Erythrasma	21	19(90%)	2(10%)	0
Not differentiated	22	7(32%)	12(54%)	3(14%)
Total	651	478(74%)	133(20%)	40(6%)

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