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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, and well documented Reports of cases of particular interest, and Book Reviews.

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## Books received

- The Acute Coronary Attack.* By J. F. PANTRIDGE, A. A. J. ADGEY, J. S. GEDDES AND S. W. WEBB. Pp. vii + 141, hard cover, illustrated. Pitman Medical: Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1975. £6.00.
- Advanced Medicine—Eleventh Symposium On.* Edited by A. F. LANT. Pp. xi + 396, illustrated, soft cover. Pitman Medical: Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1975. £10.00.
- Advanced Medicine—Topics in Therapeutics: 1.* Edited by A. M. BRECKENRIDGE. Pp. x + 258, soft cover, illustrated. Pitman Medical: Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1975. £6.50.
- Atlas of Surgical Operations.* By R. M. ZOLLINGER AND R. M. ZOLLINGER, JR. Pp. x + 393, hard cover, illustrated. Baillière Tindall: London, 1975. £27.00.
- The Development of the Infant and Young Child Normal and Abnormal.* By R. S. ILLINGWORTH. Sixth edition. Pp. vi + 325, illustrated, hard cover. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh, London, New York, 1975. £4.95.
- Diabetes—Its Physiological and Biochemical Basis.* Edited by J. VALLANCE-OWEN. Pp. 208, illustrated, hard cover. Medical and Technical Publishing Co Ltd: Lancaster, 1975. £8.50.
- Essentials of Neurology.* By JOHN N. WALTON. Fourth edition. Pp. xvii + 477, illustrated, soft cover. Pitman Medical: Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1975. £6.50.
- Essentials of Respiratory Disease.* By R. B. COLE. Second edition. Pp. viii + 297, illustrated, soft cover. Pitman Medical: Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1975. £5.00.
- Handbook of School Health.* Hon. Editor P. DE BEC TURTLE. Fifteenth edition. Pp. xiii + 254, soft cover. H. K. Lewis: London (on behalf of the Medical Officers of Schools Association), 1975. £2.40.
- Histochemical Techniques.* By J. D. BANCROFT. Second edition. Pp. ix + 348, hard cover, illustrated. Butterworths: London and Boston, 1975. £9.50.
- Molecular Aspects of Medicine—An Interdisciplinary Review Journal.* Vol. 1 No. 1. Editors H. BAUM (London) and J. GERGELY (Boston). Pp. 128, illustrated, soft cover. Pergamon Press: Oxford, New York, Braunschweig, 1976 (6 issues per year). £40.00 p.a. (incl. postage).
- Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust—Ninth Report (1970-1975).* Pp. 158, soft cover. Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust: London, 1975.
- Parapsychology and the Nature of Life.* By JOHN L. RANDALL. Pp. 256, illustrated, hard cover. Souvenir Press: London, 1975. £4.00.
- Personal View—An Anthology.* Pp. xvii + 302, soft cover. British Medical Journal: London, 1975. £3.00.
- Physiotherapy in Paediatric Practice (Postgraduate Paediatrics Series).* By DAVID SCRUTTON AND MOYNA GILBERTSON. Pp. xiii + 205, hard cover, illustrated. Butterworth Group: Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, 1975. £7.50.
- Planning a Course of Continuing Education for General Practice—A Systematic Approach.* By ROGER B. COLE AND CHARLES E. ENGEL. Pp. v + 42, soft cover, illustrated. Dept. of Audio Visual Communication B.M.A.: London, 1975.
- Postural Variations in Childhood (Postgraduate Paediatrics Series).* By CECILE ASHER. Pp. vii + 122, hard cover, illustrated. Butterworth Group: Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, 1975. £4.50.
- Principles of Pathobiology.* By MARIANO F. LA VIA AND ROLLA B. HILL. Second edition. Pp. xvii + 295, illustrated, soft cover. Oxford University Press: New York, London, Toronto, 1975. £5.00.
- Principles of Thyroid Surgery.* By JOHN M. BEAUGIÉ. Pp. ix + 225, hard cover, illustrated. Pitman Medical: Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1975. £7.00.
- Refined Carbohydrate Foods and Disease—Some implications of dietary fibre.* Edited by D. P. BURKITT AND H. C. TROWELL. Pp. xv + 356, hard cover. Academic Press Inc., (London) Ltd.: London, New York, San Francisco, 1975. £7.50; \$19.25.

## Book reviews

### Advances in Medical Computing

(Proceedings of the 3rd International Symposium on Computers in Medicine)

Edited by J. ROSE and J. H. MITCHELL. Pp. x + 189, illustrated, hard cover. Churchill Livingstone: Edinburgh, 1975. £8.50.

This book is the Proceedings of the Third International Symposium on Computers in Medicine, the theme of which was 'How can the computer be of assistance to medical personnel in their work?'

A wide variety of subjects is covered including automated diagnosis of abdominal pain, jaundice and neurological disease, the place of computers in the chemical pathology laboratory, in physiological signal analysis, in the intensive care unit, in radiotherapy treatment planning and in the handling of medical records.

One of the disadvantages of conference proceedings at which the speakers are asked to present their work, and at which a large number of topics are covered, is that no subject is covered comprehensively. The casual observer therefore tends to get a series of incomplete views of the state-of-the-art in these various fields. On the other hand, an individual interested in one computer application in medicine may find

in such proceedings papers that have relevance to his interests. These comments are valid for these Proceedings. In addition, the small amount of space devoted to the discussion that took place at the conference contributes little to the value of the book.

However, without the stimulus of this conference two excellent papers might never have been prepared. The first is the Opening Address given by Sir Richard Doll, in which he assesses the achievements and the disappointments of computers in medicine. The second is by J. G. Scadding on the Classification of Disease, a stimulating account of the diagnostic process and the inherent misconceptions. I would recommend this book even if these two papers were the only ones worth reading.

### Principles of Thyroid Surgery

By JOHN M. BEAUGIÉ. Pp. ix + 225, hard cover, illustrated. Pitman Medical: Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 1975. £7.00.

The endocrine organs are amongst the best examples of interdisciplinary medicine. Here, anatomy and physiology, medicine and surgery merge into a single entity. The author of this monograph, who is the Senior Surgical Registrar at the

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**Arrangement.** Papers should be divided into: (a) Summary; (b) Introduction; (c) Materials and methods; (d) Results; (e) Discussion; (f) Acknowledgments; (g) References.

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