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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 each year, each devoted to a single subject and written 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

- Bone and Joint Diseases.* Articles published in the *British Medical Journal*. Pp. 131, soft cover, illustrated. London: British Medical Association, 1977. Inland £3.00; Abroad US \$6.00 incl. postage.
- Cell, Tissue and Disease. The Basis of Pathology.* By NEVILLE WOOLF. Pp. 248 + viii, soft cover, illustrated. London: Baillière Tindall, 1977. £2.95.
- A Colour Atlas of Cardiac Pathology.* By GEOFFREY FARRER-BROWN. Pp. 159, hard cover, illustrated. London: Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd, 1977. £13.00.
- A Colour Atlas of Histological Staining Techniques.* Wolfe Medical Atlases - 18. By A. SMITH and J. BRUTON. Pp. 192, hard cover, illustrated. London: Wolfe Medical Publications, 1977. £5.00.
- Fundamentals of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Vol. 1. Obstetrics.* By DEREK LLEWELLYN-JONES. Pp. 471, hard and soft cover, illustrated. London: Faber & Faber. Hard cover £12.00. Soft cover £9.75.
- Haemostasis. British Medical Bulletin:* Vol. 33, No. 3, September 1977. Introduction by Professor R. G. MACFARLANE. Soft cover, illustrated. London: The British Council

Medical Department, 1977. UK £4.50. Other countries £5.00.

- Hypoxia and Ischaemia. The Proceedings of a Symposium Organized by The Royal College of Pathologists.* Pp. 190, soft cover, illustrated. London: Royal College of Pathologists, 1977. Inland £5.00. Abroad US\$10.00 incl. postage.
- Immunology Simplified.* By T. R. BOWRY. Pp. 10.24 + A.10 + g.16 + SA7 + 1.4, soft cover, illustrated. Nairobi: African Medical and Research Foundation, 1977. K.sh. 30/- (approx. £2.00 stg) + postage.
- Motor Neurone Disease.* Ed. by F. CLIFFORD ROSE. Pp. 147, hard cover, illustrated. Tunbridge Wells: Pitman Medical, 1977. £7.00.
- Our Endangered Hearing.* By RICHARD CARMEN. Pp. 193 + iv, hard cover. Emmaus, Pasadena: Rochdale Press, 1977. £4.95.
- Shaw's Textbook of Operative Gynaecology (4th edn).* Revised by JOHN HOWKINS and CHRISTOPHER N. HUDSON. Pp. 547, hard cover, illustrated. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1977. £35.00.

Book reviews

Colour Atlas of Gynaecological Cytopathology

By CHANDRA GRUBB. Pp. 72, hard cover, illustrated. Aylesbury: HM + M Publishers, 1977. £15.00.

This Atlas is a collection of 318 colour photomicrographs arranged in sections illustrating normal appearances, non-malignant conditions, pre-invasive and invasive carcinoma and miscellaneous conditions including radiation effects, rare lesions, areas of confusion and artefacts. Each section is preceded by a brief but clear text and each illustration has a descriptive caption.

A most helpful feature is the inclusion of photomicrographs of histological preparations to correlate with the cytological, although a few of these are not quite as informative as they might be. The sections dealing with appearances which can be confused and with artefacts are particularly useful but it is a pity that changes associated with oral contraception and pregnancy are not dealt with.

In the section on flora and fauna there is no indication as to which are normal and which are pathological and cocci and bacilli which are commonly seen are not illustrated. A few of the photographs accompanied by oil immersion views of the same field could have been omitted but otherwise are well chosen, generally of high quality, and, despite a rather varied colour balance, illustrate the subject matter clearly.

Dr Grubb's expertise and experience in teaching are clearly evident in this volume and she is to be congratulated on producing a most attractive book which will be of value to students of cytology and practising histologists and cytologists alike.

Multiple Choice (Objective) Questions in Pharmacology

By ROGER A. LEWIS. Pp. 143 + xv, soft cover. London: Baillière Tindall, 1976. £2.20.

In his preface, the author expresses a somewhat optimistic case for the use of multiple choice questions (MCQs). The

reviewer would have thought it prudent to balance this by adding that a MCQ paper could form *one* of the component parts of any vital, professional examination in Pharmacology, e.g. in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Studies or Pharmacy, so indicating that MCQs provide an *additional* technique of testing certain candidates who may not be fully at ease with the essay type question paper or with the oral examinations. Thus MCQs give a candidate a chance beyond the conventional essay and oral tests to be examined in a third way.

This reviewer is of the opinion that MCQs alone can form a constructive method of monitoring student progress as a course in pharmacology or clinical pharmacology proceeds. They also train the student in this technique which usually has to be acquired.

The main advantage of MCQs is that they may be machine-marked, thus easing the Examiners' burden in that taxing period between the candidate answering the written papers and the oral tests. This offsets to some extent the heavy expenditure of time required, first for setting and then for testing of MCQs by examiners as well as by students.

The form of Professor Lewis's book is a single page of Preface (which contains a reference which does not accord with that in the bibliography). He then devotes three pages of Introduction to the background of MCQs, the types of questions, to the percentage of correct answers after random guesses with each type and the manner of marking. This should be of interest to those unfamiliar with MCQs. A page of directions for students and another for examiners ushers-in the Sections of the book covering, I General Pharmacology, drug metabolism and autotoxins; II Drugs affecting the autonomic nervous system; III Central nervous system; IV Other systems; V Endocrine systems; VI Chemotherapy of bacterial and fungal infections; VII Chemotherapy of parasitic and neoplastic diseases; VIII General pharmacology including drug interactions and toxicology. Then follow the correct answers, percentage facility (i.e. percentage giving correct

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