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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


Book reviews

Bone and Joint Diseases

This book consists of short articles reprinted from the British Medical Journal. The topics include: joint replacement, arthroscopy, steroid injections, bone tumours, Paget’s disease, Perthes’ disease (not as they call it ‘Perthes’ disease’), back ache, discs, scoliosis, hip dislocations, hip fractures, tibial fractures, knee ligament injuries, surgery of the forefoot, and club foot. What a splendidly heterogeneous collection – on a mere 119 pages! All the articles are worth reading and are well written. The print, paper and illustrations are good and, at £3, the book is a real bargain. But I wonder who it is written for – students, general practitioners, orthopaedic surgeons, or rheumatologists? I don’t know, but I suggest they all buy it; each will enjoy reading at least part of it.

Clinical Gastroenterology (2nd Edition)

This is a second edition of this remarkable textbook of gastroenterology, remarkable not only for the wealth of clinical experience it contains, but also because it is written by one author, a very rare occurrence these days. Dr Spiro’s industry has been immense and the success of his book is attested by the publication of a second edition seven years after the first.

The book covers the whole range of gastrointestinal pancreatic and hepatic disorders. The organization of the material is on practical lines and the author has been guided in his classification by clinical presentation of disease, rather than by rigid anatomical considerations. This plan works well. The present edition has been brought up to date to keep pace with technological advances in gastroenterology, and topics such as fibreoptic endoscopy, angiography and the various imaging techniques have been included. Another innovation is that the chapters (referred to as ‘units’) on peptic ulcer and inflammatory bowel disease have been written as self-contained monographs.

Despite the acknowledgment of technological advances, the author has refused to sacrifice the art to the science of medicine, and the clinical aspects of disease have continued to be strongly emphasized. The style is a little discursive at times, but the book should be read as a distillation of one gastroenterologist’s experience in dealing with patients, rather than with diseases. Some experienced clinicians may disagree at times with Dr Spiro’s opinions on various topics, but none will dismiss them. Doctors in training will enjoy the practical approach to real clinical problems, but should remember that they are reading a text which summarizes an expert, but individual, opinion.

The book is well produced and the standard of radiography and photomicrographs is high. Sadly, the price will put it out of reach of many individuals.

A Colour Atlas of Histological Staining Techniques (Wolf Medical Atlases – 18)

This publication forms a valuable addition to the existing series of colour atlases.

In the introduction, general aspects of histological techniques, such as the aims and advantages and disadvantages of formal saline fixation, are briefly discussed. Subsequently, the book is divided into three parts.

The first part is devoted to tissue photomicrographs with a great variety of stains likely to be used in routine and specialized laboratories. These stains have been applied to a variety of tissues. With few exceptions, in which the required tinctorial hue has not been achieved, all the illustrations are excellent, and show the points the authors wish to emphasize.
odd to find no reference to the work of Keele and Armstrong in the section on cutaneous hyperalgesia, nor could any reference be found to Ridley's work on Meissner's corpuscles in man.

Clinicians will find much to interest them in this issue.

System of Orthopaedics and Fractures (3rd Edition)


This book deserves to be in its fifth edition. It provides a very clear and accurate account of the present day approach to the common problems of orthopaedic and traumatic surgery. To do this within the confines of 459 pages is no mean feat. This has been done by dividing the contents into three main sections, namely general orthopaedics, regional orthopaedics and injuries. Each part is tidily presented with short crisp sentences and generously illustrated with appropriate photographs and radiographs. It is right up-to-date with references even from 1977. The author who is well known for his talents as a teacher has produced a book which will remain popular amongst undergraduate and F.R.C.S. candidates for many years to come.

Notice

WORLD CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS

London 3–9 August 1980

THE FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS, under the sponsorship of the International Union of Pharmacology and the British Pharmacological Society, will take place in London in 1980.

Further information may be obtained from:

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All references should be brought together at the end of the paper in alphabetical order giving (a) name(s) of the author(s); (b) year of publication in parentheses; (c) title of paper in its original form; (d) title of journal in full, underlined; (e) volume number, underlined; number of first page of article. References to books and monographs should include (a) name(s) and initials of all author(s) or editor(s); year of publication in parentheses, (b) title, underlined; (c) edition; (d) page referred to; (e) publisher; (f) place. Authors should ensure that the listed references correspond exactly to those in the text. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of their references.

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Figures. In the text Arabic numbers, e.g. Fig. 3, should be used. They should be marked on the backs with the name(s) of the author(s) and the title of the paper. The top of each figure should be indicated with an arrow on the reverse side. 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 twice the size of the final reproduction. The originals of line diagrams, prepared as described above, may be submitted in photographs of similar size. The legends of all figures should be typed together on a single sheet of paper headed ‘Captions to Figures’.

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