

Postgraduate Medical Journal

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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 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

Immunology of Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease. By RALPH WRIGHT (*Current Topics in Immunology Series*). Pp. 132, soft cover, illustrated. 1977. £4.75.

Intimations of Quality. Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Diagnoses. By H. A. WALDRON and LORNA VICKERSTAFF.

Pp. 59, soft cover, illustrated. London: Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, 1977. £1.50.

An Introduction to Cell Population Kinetics. By W. A. AHERNE, R. S. CAMPLEJOHN and N. A. WRIGHT. Pp. 88, soft back, illustrated. London: Edward Arnold, 1977, £2.95.

Book reviews

Amnesia. Clinical, Psychological and Medicolegal Aspects (2nd edition)

Edited by C. W. M. WHITTY and O. L. ZANGWILL. Pp. 306, hard cover, illustrated. London, Boston, Sydney, Wellington, Durban and Toronto: Butterworths, 1977. £9.50.

The second edition of this important book brings our knowledge of this complex subject up to date. It deals with experimental aspects (Piercy, Susan Iversen), clinical problems (Whitty, Stores, Lishman, Zangwill, Moyra Williams, Pratt), neuropathology (Brierley), a psychoanalytic view point (Brierley) and medico-legal implications (Gibbens and Hall Williams). It will be essential reading for all neurologists, psychiatrists and psychologists with an interest in this field.

Anaerobic Bacteriology. Clinical and Laboratory Practice (3rd edition)

By A. TREVOR WILLIS. Pp. x + 300, hard cover. Sevenoaks: The Butterworth Group, 1977. £10.00.

The new edition of this book appears thirteen years after the previous one. In the interim there has been a very widespread resurgence of interest in infection associated with anaerobic organisms, particularly the non-sporing anaerobes. There have been numerous technical advances in laboratory diagnosis. Clinicians have become more aware of the pathogenic significance of these organisms. New drugs active against anaerobes have been introduced.

If we have had to wait a long time for a new edition of Dr Willis's book, it must be said at once that it has been worth the wait. The new edition is a very erudite guide to the subject. It includes detailed practical guidance as to methods of isolation of anaerobes, the preparation of culture media, and the use and testing of equipment for growing anaerobic organisms. Most valuably, the author draws on his enormous personal experience in this field to express opinions which will be of great assistance to those microbiologists with less expertise who wish to improve their ability to isolate anaerobic bacteria.

A learned review of the biology and properties of anaerobic bacteria follows, and finally there is a section on the clinical and public health importance of these organisms. Numerous carefully chosen references are given to the enormous literature on the subject.

The book is written in a lucid, easy-to-read style. The layout is clear and the type easy on the eye. Dr Willis is to be congratulated on having written an excellent introduction to anaerobic bacteriology. This is a volume which will become required reading for medical microbiologists and infectious disease specialists. At the reasonable price of £10 it is to be hoped that clinical microbiology laboratories will all acquire a copy.

Basic Medical Education in the British Isles

Vol. 1. *General Section & School Profiles*

Vol. 2. *The Disciplines & Specialities.*

The Report of the General Medical Council Survey. Pp. xvi + 876, hard cover. London: The Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, 2 Vols. £14. 1977.

The GMC survey team based on the Centre for Medical Education at the University of Dundee obtained the basic information for this report from the 38 medical schools in the British Isles by means of questionnaire and interview up to 1975. The result is a detailed account of pre-clinical and clinical undergraduate training in the British Isles. Pre-medical teaching and the pre-registration year which is part of the basic medical education as defined by the GMC were not specifically investigated. The general section of the first volume reviews selection procedures, many aspects of the curricula, methods of assessment, and developments. This is followed by detailed profiles of the individual school, under these headings, together with accounts of their specific problems.

The second volume is largely concerned with presenting reports summarizing the information received about the individual disciplines and specialities. The headings under which these are covered include teaching time and organization, place in the curriculum, aims and objects, teaching methods and means of assessment.

The 1967 Recommendations of the GMC as to Basic Medical Education are given as an appendix. It is apparent that the changing curricula have gone some way to meet these recommendations with, for example, formal and attachment training in general practice likely to be available at every medical school by 1978. The report does highlight a shortage of medically-trained teachers in some specialities and the conflict between service and teaching commitments of NHS staff. The need for extra resources is very obvious.

This report has much that is thought-provoking, and all those involved in undergraduate medical education should have a copy available, not least to see what the trends are in their own fields in other medical schools.

Clinical Management of the Osteoporoses

By GILBERT S. GORDON and CYNTHIA VAUGHAN. Pp. ix + 207, hard cover, illustrated. Aylesbury: HM + M Publishers, 1976. £12.50.

In the preface the authors state clearly why they thought it necessary to write a book on the osteoporoses: there is a need for re-appraisal of past knowledge on the subject and for a critical review of the most recent advances in bone disease and calcium metabolism. Right at the start, the important message is there: at last there is ample experimental and

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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.

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. SI units should be used wherever possible. Papers should be written in the third person.

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