

Books received

- Biochemistry of Mental Disorders: New Vistas.* Edited by EARL USDIN and ARNOLD J. MANDELL. (Modern Pharmacology-Toxicology, vol. 13). Pp. 268, illustrated. Marcel Dekker, New York, 1978. SFr. 80.
- By Guess or by What? Information with Design in the NHS.* Papers by P. D. FOX, and others. Edited by GORDON MCLACHLAN. (Problems and Progress in Medical Care. Essays in Current Research 11th series). Pp. 125, soft cover. Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, Oxford University Press, 1978. £4.00.
- Clinical Parenteral Nutrition. Proceedings of a Parenteral Nutrition Workshop, University of Liverpool, April 1977.* Edited by D. H. BAXTER and G. M. JACKSON. Pp. 272, illustrated, hard back. Geistlich Education, Chester, 1978.
- A Colour Atlas of Gynaecological Surgery. Vol. 1. Vaginal Operations.* By DAVID H. LEES and ALBERT SINGER. Pp. 224, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1978. £22.00.
- A Colour Atlas of Oral Medicine.* By WILLIAM R. TYLDESLEY. Pp. 111, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1978. £10.00.
- Essential Intensive Care.* By E. SHERWOOD JONES. Pp. 503, illustrated. MTP Press, Lancaster, 1978. £9.95.
- Hepatotropic Factors.* Ciba Foundation Symposium 55 (new series). Edited by RUTH PORTER and JULIE WHELAN. Pp. 405, illustrated. Elsevier, Amsterdam, Oxford, New York; Excerpta, North Holland, 1978. \$36.00.
- Hormontherapie in der Frauenheilkunde Grundlagen und Praxis.* By JOACHIM UFER. 5th Edition. Pp. 285, illustrated. Walter de Gruyter, Berlin, New York, 1978. DM 68.00.
- Immediate Hypersensitivity. Modern Concepts and Developments.* Edited by MICHAEL K. BACH. (Immunology series no. 7). Pp. 848, illustrated. Marcel Dekker, New York, 1978. SFr. 130.00.
- MCQ Tutor: MRCOG Part I. Basic Sciences as applied to Obstetrics and Gynaecology.* By V. R. TINDALL. Pp. 180, soft cover. William Heinemann Medical Books, London, 1978. £3.75.
- Metabolic Consequences of Chronic Renal Failure.* 2nd Edition. By MICHAEL R. WILLS. Pp. 216, illustrated. HM + M Publishers, Aylesbury, Bucks, 1978. £10.50.
- The Molecular Biology of Animal Viruses. Volume 2.* Edited by DEBI PROSAD NAYAK. Pp. 480, illustrated. Marcel Dekker, New York and Basle, 1978. \$45.00.
- Multiple Choice Questions in Psychiatry.* By G. GLEW. Pp. 78, soft cover. Butterworths, London, etc., 1978. £2.95.
- Neisseria Gonorrhoeae and Gonococcal Infections.* Report of a WHO Scientific Group. Pp. 142, soft cover. World Health Organization, Geneva, 1978. \$5.40. SFr. 12.
- Scientific Research on the Transcendental Meditation Programme.* Collected papers volume 1. Edited by D. W. ORME-JOHNSON and J. T. FARROW. Pp. 727, illustrated. Maharishi European Research University Press, 1978. Price not given.
- Therapist Disclosure. The Use of Self in Psychotherapy.* By MYRON F. WEINER. Pp. 178. Butterworths, Boston, London, 1978. £8.25.
- X-Ray Anatomy.* By George Simon and W.J. Hamilton. Pp. 343, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, 1978. £25.00.

Book reviews

Davidson's Principles and Practice of Medicine (12th Edition).

Edited by JOHN MACLEOD. Pp. 978, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London and New York, 1978. Soft cover £6.50; cased £10.00.

Davidson has justifiably become a classic in the quarter century since it first appeared. Although one has wondered whether the pace of advances in medicine really justified a new edition every 2 years, it is a pleasure to welcome the twelfth. The major change has been the incorporation of the previously separate *Tropical Diseases Supplement* into a single book. The result is that this section forms one eighth of the text and one has the apparent anomaly of yaws getting as much space as the irritable bowel syndrome. This is, probably, the ultimate benefit of the large number of readers of Davidson in those parts of the world consuming a high-residue diet.

The quality of the print and paper is not as good as that of the previous edition but the book is of a smaller size, thanks to the removal of dated contents and in spite of new material. The chapters on genetics, the cardiovascular system, liver and psychiatry show the biggest changes.

The editor's objective in providing a rational and comprehensible basis for the practice of medicine suitable for under- and postgraduate students has been amply achieved.

Diagnostic E.N.T.

By G. D. L. SMYTH. Pp. 130, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1978. Paper back. £3.00.

This is an excellent new textbook for medical students but it contains, in my view, one most serious fault.

This short book is designed for undergraduate students and also, the cover says, to be helpful to ENT registrars. It is most clearly written by an acknowledged leader in the speciality and the 37 line illustrations – there could have been more in a book on a subject so dependent on visual observation – are models other authors would do well to follow. The short summaries or revision paragraphs at the end of each chapter will be especially helpful just before examinations.

The book, however, has been written to 'do away with the mystique of the laryngeal mirror'. Diagnosis of diseases of the larynx and pharynx is described without recourse to indirect laryngoscopy or its possible findings; all cases of laryngeal disease and many of pharyngeal disease are to be referred to an ENT Clinic. The technique (not mystique) of indirect laryngoscopy using a mirror is and has been acquired by many doctors other than ENT surgeons, no laryngeal diagnosis is possible otherwise and many if not most teachers of ENT feel that the mirror should not be the sole province of