

edition in 1972. Thus, new knowledge of the pharmacology of, for example, opiate action, neurotransmitter substances, histamine H₂-receptor and adrenoceptor blocking drugs is covered, as are outlines of general pharmacology, including the principles of pharmacokinetics and bioassay techniques.

The book is primarily directed toward the pre-clinical medical student, as well as the undergraduate in biological sciences or pharmacy; it aims to introduce the reader to pharmacological concepts and achievements. In this reviewer's view, these aims are admirably achieved and, furthermore, many a qualified doctor will find the text very helpful in refreshing knowledge of basic principles and expanding knowledge of those areas of the subject which have undergone rapid expansion in recent years. Emphasis throughout is placed on mechanisms of drug action and the relation of chemical structure to the biological activity of drugs. What better foundation for coping, in subsequent years of clinical practice, with the recurring challenge of having to appraise critically the claims made for, say, a new antimicrobial or a new antihypertensive agent.

This is an excellent paperback, at a very modest price. Those readers whose appetite has been whetted and who wish to delve more deeply into the fascinating subject matter of pharmacology, can readily do so by following-up the short reference lists given at the end of each chapter.

International Classification of Procedures in Medicine

Volume 2. Various paginations. World Health Organization, Geneva, 1978. SFr 15.00.

The World Health Organization helps 150 countries to exchange their knowledge and experience in order to achieve the highest possible levels of health throughout the world. It achieves this through several broad fields of endeavour, including international co-operation to maintain agreed standards for the classification of diseases and causes of death. This Volume 2 is an international classification of procedures in medicine. It comprises 2 main topics of radiology and of drugs. The first section comprises radiology and other applications of physics in medicine. The second section defines drugs, medicaments and biological agents. Each section has an exhaustive tabular list and alphabetical index.

This volume is intended for the libraries of radiology and therapeutics departments rather than for the postgraduate working towards higher degrees.

International Public Health between the Two World Wars – The Organizational Problems

By NORMAN HOWARD-JONES. Pp. 92, illustrated. World Health Organization, Geneva, 1978. SFr 12.00.

Mindful of the achievements of the Red Cross during World War I, Henry Pomeroy Davison, Chairman of the War Council of the American Red Cross, visualized the extension of the good will and co-operation into peacetime to combat disease throughout the world. This idea was heartily endorsed by a medical conference convened by a Committee of Red Cross Societies in Cannes, France, in April 1919, which included among the 60 participants most of the eminent medical scientists, administrators and educators from throughout the world. As a result, an executive council was appointed which recommended the establishment of a health organization in connection with the new League of Nations and the foundation of a League of Red Cross Societies. However, the Office Internationale d'Hygiène Publique (OHIP) in Paris and the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, were both, as their names imply, concerned with international health and had been established before World

War I. The functions of the two Red Cross Committees became separated, but the OHIP remained in operation after the establishment of the Health Committee of the United Nations and neither co-ordination nor co-operation was achieved.

This book, as its title suggests, is concerned with the details of the organizational problems. The author has researched most meticulously into the minutes and the records of the meetings and has highlighted the internal squabbles of the delegates and the absurd situations which arose in consequence. The book is of most value to medical and other historians and administrators, but nevertheless it is a useful supplement to the interesting and more readable book by Neville Goodman (1971). This is mainly concerned with the achievements of these organizations which seem all the more extraordinary after reading about the tensions and rivalries described by Norman Howard-Jones.

Management of War Injuries to the Jaws and Related Structures

With an appendix entitled Research in Acquired Cranio-facial Disfigurement. Edited by JAMES F. KELLY. Pp. xxix +273, illustrated. U.S. Government Printing Office (Superintendent of Documents), Washington D.C., 1978. \$12.00 (plus 25% for overseas handling) (Stock No. 008-045-00018-6).

Countries of the English-speaking world were not involved in a major conflict between the end of World War I and the commencement of World War II. It was not surprising therefore that most of the lessons learned in the earlier war had been forgotten and that Warwick, James and Fickling had to delve back into the records of The Third London General Hospital in order to produce a text book to guide those treating casualties during the early days of World War II. Only 12 years supervened between the Korean and Vietnam Wars, yet again it seems many medical and dental officers in the American forces in the field at the beginning of the second campaign were without previous battle experience. This book has been published in the hope that it will be helpful in any new conflict.

With the progressive evacuation of casualties, those engaged in early treatment do not see the long-term effects of their efforts. This state of affairs leads to the persistence of faulty methods of treatment. By tracing many patients' progress from injury to final rehabilitation, valuable lessons were learned. These are illustrated by 19 carefully selected case histories.

The first chapter reviews the history of the treatment of maxillo-facial injuries from World War I onwards. The logistics involved in the treatment of battle casualties are explained in Chapter II. Modern forms of air evacuation have made possible a revolution in patient management. These changes are explained and an account of modern treatment methods is given in 3 sections entitled Early care, Care at intermediate facilities, and Late care.

It seems that rapid evacuation by helicopter permitted the primary closure of many wounds which previously would have been treated by delayed suture. A range of investigatory procedures were available in hospitals close to the fighting which would have astonished those treating casualties at a similar time after injury even at the end of World War II. In a special section on Fluid replacement the reason for the rapid expansion of blood volume before emergency surgery by crystalloid solutions rather than plasma or blood is carefully explained.

Inevitably, errors of judgement were made. Attention is drawn to these and the ill effects of unwise actions are emphasized both in the chapter on Late care and in the Case histories. The lengthy discussion of bone grafting is particularly interesting. The application of pre-prosthetic surgery

techniques to the rebuilding of alveolar ridges by bone and skin grafts deserves special mention.

In these days of terrorist attacks, any surgeon may be faced with missile injuries. The lessons in this book, therefore, are well worth general study. There are, perhaps, ways in which it could be improved. Multiple authorship leads to variation in style unless editorial revision is thorough. To the English reader one chapter in particular is heavy-going. A substantial amount of data has been accumulated and there are sizeable tables of figures. Unfortunately figures are often quoted to 2 places of decimals which should have been rounded up to the nearest whole number. These tables break up the text and reduce its impact. A few important statistics should have been quoted and the rest assembled in the appendix. The Ciba coloured plates illustrating the anatomy of the head and neck are also not strictly relevant despite their quality and again break up the flow of the text.

At the end there is a sizeable appendix and it is devoted to discussions of possible research projects related to severe cranio-facial disfigurement. Quite frankly, many of these seemed to have doubtful value and application.

There is no doubting the overall value of this book, and by modern standards it is most reasonably priced. If at some time a second edition is contemplated perhaps a shortened version could be produced, written in traditional text book form.

MCQ Tutor: MRCOG Part 1 Basic Sciences as Applied to Obstetrics and Gynaecology

By V. R. TINDALL. Pp. 180, soft cover. William Heinemann Medical Books, London, 1978. £3.75.

This book is exactly what it claims to be, namely a collection of carefully selected and neatly set-out multiple choice questions such as may be posed in the part I examination for membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Answers are provided overleaf, and separate answer sheets at the end of the book, with an explanation of the marking system, allow self-examination and assessment.

There can be no substitute for sound factual knowledge before the sitting of this examination, but this book will serve as a useful guide as to what knowledge is required. It should also allow the prepared candidate to check that his knowledge is adequate and without gaps. It would be especially valuable to those candidates who have not been trained in the basic sciences in this country.

In summary this book is a useful aid for all part I MRCOG candidates.

The New Health Practitioners in America. A Comparative Study

By B. L. REEDY. Pp. 79, soft cover. King's Funds Books, Pitman Medical Publishing Co Ltd, London, 1978. £4.50.

This book, produced on A4 paper, includes 38 pages of text with subsequent pages devoted to various appendices, references and indexing.

Dr Reedy applies himself to a discussion of the New Health Practitioner (NHP) in the United States and includes comparisons, wherever relevant, to the situation in Britain. He starts with a description of the term NHP which can be taken to include 2 distinct kinds of worker, the physician's assistant (PA) and the nurse practitioner (NP). A brief description of the development of medical services in the U.S.A. sets the scene for the evolution of the NHP. This, to a marked extent, was in response to the increasing trend in the 1950s and 1960s for American doctors to enter the specialities, coupled with their subsequent maldistribution. (In 1940 G.P.s formed 76% of all physicians compared to 36% in 1965).

The descriptions of the physician's assistant and the nurse practitioner include practical examples of their training and

fields of activity. The differences between the 2 generic groups of workers are clearly drawn, as are the areas of inter-professional friction. These frictions in combination with the licensure and regulations have served further to delineate the differences between the 2 groups. The PAs by willingly accepting a dependent role to physicians have, in fact, achieved greater freedom and flexibility. Indeed, some of the job specifications for PAs appear very similar to those of British house officers.

However, the future of the PA, faced with incomplete acceptance by some doctors and the unhelpful and sometimes obstructive attitude of the American Nurses' Association, is by no means assured. With the recent growth in American physician training schemes in general practice, and government moves to correct maldistribution of services, it is difficult to be very optimistic.

On the other hand, Nurse Practitioners appear to be far more secure and the author suggests in his conclusion that the experience in America might be used to good effect in the involvement of nurses in the British health care teams of the future.

This reviewer found this conclusion disappointing. One of the criticisms of some of the NHP courses in America is that of timidity of approach – could this not also be true of Britain? One is left with the uncomfortable feeling that in the U.K. the whole concept of the NHP, and particularly the PA, has proceeded by default. The implications of this to the future direction of health care systems are obvious and of great importance. The role of the NHP has been approached with imagination in other countries. This book should be widely read and the whole concept thoroughly considered with particular reference to the National Health Service.

Ovarian Carcinoma. Etiology, Diagnosis and Treatment

By H. R. K. BARBER. Pp. 326, illustrated. Masson Publishing, Tunbridge Wells: Abacus Press, 1978. £26.35.

This must be a most difficult subject of which to provide a comprehensive text book and Dr Barber must have come closer than most should this have been his aim. This reviewer fears that because the author has offered so much more than a current review on this rapidly advancing subject, the text is not easily going to be kept up to date. While he has tried hard to put forward prevailing opinions, his own are naturally foremost, and very valuable these must be when based on such a wealth of experience. It is most noticeable in the chapter on pre-operative evaluation and work-up, that these opinions are from across the Atlantic. It was a disappointment not to find more figures to support the value of the sometimes extensive investigations and treatments the patients were offered, and what figures there were tended to be concealed in the text. Some of the few illustrations did not contribute greatly to the text.

It is hoped that these few observations will not be considered impertinent when Dr Barber has already been extensively congratulated on this considerable work by distinguished men in his field. The book would add greatly to the gynaecological reference section at any medical library and should be of benefit to all practising clinicians and their patients.

Pineal Tumors

Edited by HENRY H. SCHMIDEK. Pp. 138, illustrated. New York, etc: Masson Publishing, Tunbridge Wells: Abacus Press, 1978. £22.80.

This is a first volume in a series intended to bring recent advances in diagnosis and treatment of cancer to specialists practising in particular areas, in this case neurologists and neurosurgeons. Eight contributors, all from the United States, have written 7 Chapters covering the pathology,