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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.

A 'Notice to Contributors' is published on the inside back cover of this issue. The Editor reserves the right to make changes which may clarify or condense papers where this is considered desirable.

The Journal is covered by *Current Contents* and *Biological Abstracts*.

EDITORIAL MATTERS

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Books received

Family Planning. Fundamentals for Health Professionals. By ANN COWPER and CYRIL YOUNG. Pp. 160, illustrated. Croom Helm, London, 1981. £11.95 (hardback), £5.95 (paperback).

From Here to Maternity. Becoming a Mother. By ANN OAKLEY. Pp. 328. Penguin Books, London, 1981. £2.25.
Neurosurgical Anaesthesia and Intensive Care. By T. V. CAMPKIN and J. M. TURNER. Pp. ix+267, illustrated. Butterworths, London and Boston, 1981. £19.50.

Book reviews

A Beginner's Handbook in Biological Transmission Electron Microscopy

By BRENDA S. WEAKLEY. 2nd edn. Pp. xi+252, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh and London, 1981. £9.75.

The first edition of this book was published in 1972 and was intended to provide an introductory text for the beginning practitioner of electron microscopy. This outlined simply the theory and practice of the basic techniques, and was amply referenced to enable deeper pursuit.

The second edition (in paperback) is revised and updated but the aim remains the same—to give an easily comprehended account of EM techniques for the beginner, and in this it succeeds admirably.

An opening account of the theory of transmission electron microscopy is followed in logical sequence by chapters on processing and sectioning of tissues, operation of the microscope, photography, and suggestions on how to approach the interpretation of ultrastructural appearances. The last part of the book explains, briefly, specialized applications such as cytochemistry, autoradiography and electron probe X-ray analysis as well as mentioning scanning EM. These accounts are necessarily brief, and detailed descriptions are not attempted but a strong feature of this book is the extensive and relatively up-to-date (1979) bibliography given in each chapter which makes this a good source book for further reading. A chapter on simple routine maintenance procedures is included, and the appendix gives details of individual staining, embedding and photographic techniques as well as lists of suppliers.

Dr Weakley's style is sensible and readable and obviously based on a keen awareness of the problems likely to be encountered by beginners in this field. The electron micrographs are well reproduced and the book is good value for money with a large amount of information gathered in a remarkably concise format. Taken in conjunction with day-to-day instruction at the bench, this book is highly recommended as a beginner's handbook.

C. FISHER
Dept of Morbid Anatomy,
University College,
London.

Bereavement Visiting

Edited by GEOFFREY DYNE. Preface by Colin Murray Parkes. Pp. 68. King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, London, 1981. £2.85.

This is a very readable little handbook, without pretension. It describes very clearly the voluntary bereavement visiting service organized at St Christopher's Hospice in South London, which is supported by Dr Colin Murray Parkes and other professional staff.

The 3 case studies quoted by volunteers illustrate the diversity of problems they may face, in the different reactions of the bereaved, and the importance, both for the bereaved and their volunteer visitors, of professional back-up and structure.

The book includes a short background reading list of

books readily available; a sensible index; and lists useful addresses for the bereaved or the worker, headed by 'Cruse', the pioneer organization in the field of voluntary work with the bereaved. There is also an example of the form of notes kept by the Visiting Service including check lists of 'pathology'.

It would be good to see such a scheme as that at St Christopher's extended to other Hospices and indeed to general hospitals, where families may have had even less preparation for the death of a spouse or parent, and this little book can only light the way.

C. BATEMAN
Principal Social Worker,
Whittington Hospital,
London.

The Management and Prevention of Pressure Sores

By ANTHONY BARTON and MARY BARTON. Pp. 96, illustrated. Faber & Faber, London, 1981. £7.25 (hardback), £2.75 (paperback).

The authors point out that some hospitals with apparently the most advanced wards have the highest incidence of pressure sores. In this pocket-sized book of just under 100 pages, they consider the causes, pathology, treatment and prevention of pressure sores.

The book is excellent reading and is of the greatest interest for those working in the various branches of the nursing profession.

D. E. SHARLAND
Consultant Physician,
Whittington Hospital,
London.

Teaching General Practice

Edited by JACK CORMACK, MARSHALL MARINKER and DAVID MORRELL. Pp. xviii+328. Kluwer Medical, London, 1981. £18.50.

This book like the curate's egg is good in parts. I feel it was a mistake to combine the needs and discuss the problems of medical students and general practice vocational trainees in a single volume. Even the title is, perhaps, a little misleading as the book goes well beyond the immediate requirements of learning and teaching in a general practice environment but not unreasonably describes that environment.

As is to be expected in a multi-authored book, the quality of the writing and its clarity vary from chapter to chapter. I would pick out for special mention Chapter 24 'Practice Management' by Michael Drury, Chapter 25 'Prescribing' by J. J. C. Cormack, Chapter 29 'Medicine and Society' by James McCormick, Chapter 30 'Ethics' by J. J. C. Cormack, Chapter 39 'Continuous Assessment' by Michael McKendrick, Chapter 40 'Sampling Medical Records' by Davide Morrell and Chapter 47 'The Teaching Practice' by Alastair Donald. I found it quite extraordinary that this chapter by Alastair Donald, the last in the book, concerned with the nuts and bolts of teaching, its organization and

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Typescripts. Two complete copies should be sent to the Editor, Postgraduate Medical Journal, Chandos House, 2 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 9LE. Papers should be typewritten on one side of the paper only, with a 1½ inch margin, and the lines should be double spaced. The paper should bear the name of the author(s) with their degrees and the name of the laboratory or research institute where the work has been carried out. The full address of the principal author should be given as a footnote.

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

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Tables. These should be on separate sheets. The main heading should be in capitals with an arabic number, e.g. TABLE 2. Each table must have a caption.

Page proofs will be submitted to the senior author for minor corrections and should be returned to the Editor within 3 days. Major alterations to the text cannot be accepted.

Offprints. These may be purchased if ordered on the form which will be sent to the senior author with the proofs.

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