

**A Colour Atlas of Head and Neck Anatomy**

By R. M. H. McMINN, R. T. HUTCHINGS and B. M. LOGAN  
Pp. 240, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London,  
1981. £18.00.

This is a spectacular book in every sense of the word. The authors have taken Vesalius and his Victorian successors and re-created with tremendous care a photographic text book of real anatomy. I am sure the selective formalized drawings of Gray, Jameson and Grant are valuable to the undergraduate student but for clinical practice one must return to the three-dimensional complexity of the body itself.

The contents are divisible into osteology, soft tissue dissections, the brain and spinal cord and radiographs.

With the illustrations on the left page and the text on the right, the maximum size for display has been achieved with a simple means of anatomical self-assessment for students of all ages. The authors make no claims to provide a detailed text but there are useful captions on many pages to supplement the identification keys.

Several illustrations look a little flat, e.g. the base of skull and the infra-temporal region, but this does not detract from the overall wealth of detail.

The weakest section contains the radiographs and angiograms; this needs more detailed radiographs, including an angiogram of the external carotid branches. This section might also benefit from some subtraction films and CT scans but then the authors could legitimately say, where do we stop?

In summary, this is a beautifully prepared, valuable text book for students and surgeons concerned with the anatomy of the head and neck. It is conveniently sized and surely well worth the present price of £18.

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**A Colour Atlas of Rheumatoid Hand Surgery**

By K. M. BACKHOUSE, S. H. HARRISON and R. T. HUTCHINGS. Pp. 216, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1981. £35.00.

This book is pleasantly written, excellently illustrated and enjoyable to read. The early chapters concerning the principles of surgery to patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis and the examination of the hand in such patients are full of common sense and advice suitable for trainee surgeons. Details of surgical procedures, illustrated beautifully with colour photographs (sometimes excessively), seem intended for more senior surgeons, possibly at the stage when rheumatoid surgery is becoming a special interest. The technical aspects are dealt with clearly, but perhaps a little more space could have been given to postoperative care following individual surgical procedures. It is this deficiency which diminishes the book's value as a text book of surgical procedures.

Nevertheless, senior registrars or consultants interested in the surgery of rheumatoid arthritis should certainly wish to own this book for reference purposes and for the pleasure of looking through its pages.

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**Controversies in Clinical Care**

Edited by VICTOR M. ROSENOER and MARCUS ROTHSCHILD. Pp. 234, illustrated. MTP Press, Lancaster, 1981. £17.75.

I enjoyed this book and found it balanced, readable and

worthwhile. The Introduction and first two chapters led me to assume that I was going to read critical analyses of the main papers confirming or refuting the different approaches when orthodox clinical management is controversial. However, this applied only to the chapter on lithium maintenance therapy in manic depressive disorders. Nonetheless, all the other chapters were excellent reviews of some of the most common current controversies in clinical care. The eleven topics of the reviews are mainly of relevance to physicians; the only possible exception being a review of adjuvant therapy of breast cancer but even this topic reflects the involvement of physicians as oncologists in what has traditionally hitherto been considered a surgical disease. Among interesting and clinically relevant topics covered are alcoholism, acute and chronic hepatitis, gall-stone disease, hypertension, transient ischaemic attack and albumin therapy.

The book is pleasurable produced and printed. I found no textural, grammatical or factual errors. The chapter references contain the titles of the articles referred to (this usually implies considerable care in preparation and ensures that the references are truly relevant). I detected careful and consistent editing in that the chapter introductions were uniformly competent.

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**Davidson's Principles and Practice of Medicine**

Edited by JOHN MACLEOD. Pp. xiii+943, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1981. £11.50 (paperback), £16.00 (hardback).

What can a reviewer say about a text book of medicine which is now in its 13th edition and which has been translated into four languages? The first five chapters consider various general aspects of disease such as genetic and nutritional factors. The following chapters consider disease in a conventional systematic way and they also include psychiatry, tropical medicine and acute poisoning. A final and new chapter on promotion of health and prevention of disease completes the book.

There can be very few topics from the very wide range chosen by Membership Examiners on which prospective candidates would not find at least a short note. Gram for gram, there can be few books which supply so much information in such a readable and digestible form. It can be highly recommended for both undergraduates and post-graduates.

£11.50 for the soft-backed edition puts it well within the scope of the most impoverished student.

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**Multiple Choice Questions in Haematology with Answers and Explanatory Comments**

By G. D. PEGRUM and T. R. MITCHELL. Pp. 63. Edward Arnold, London, 1981. £1.95.

This is a little book which contains a surprisingly large amount of information. A few of the questions are somewhat confusing or too high powered for the intended market but surely this is a criticism familiar to all who have sat for multiple choice examinations.

The price is low enough to ensure that students will be able to buy and thumb through this volume in the days before their examinations knowing that, if they are successful, the