Books received

Biology of Skin Cancer (Excluding Melanomas). A series of Workshops on the Biology of Human Cancer. Report No. 15 Edited by O. D. LAERUM and O. H. IVERSEN. UICC Technical Report Series—vol. 63. Pp. 263. UICC, Geneva, 1981. Sw.Fr.44.00.

Clinical Urology Illustrated. By R. B. BROWN. Pp. xi + 401, illustrated. MTP Press, Lancaster, 1982. £24.95.

Fundamentals of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. By DEREK LLEWELLYN-JONES. Vol. 1 *Obstetrics*, Pp. 492, illustrated. Vol. 2 *Gynaecology*, Pp. 315, illustrated. 3rd ed. Faber and Faber, London, 1982. Vol. 1, £10.00 (hardback £15.00), Vol. 2, £8.50 (hardback £11.50).

Book reviews

A Colour Atlas of Respiratory Diseases

By D. GERAINT JAMES and PETER R. STUDDY. Pp. 272, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1981. £45.00.

Medicine is never dull, but sometimes the books necessary for us all to learn from, or refer to, are rather drab. No such complaint can be made about this Colour Atlas which presents nearly eight hundred illustrations relevant to respiratory diseases. The colour photographs are excellent and the radiographs and tables are admirably clear.

Naturally some diseases are more photogenic than others, and the presentation of 76 illustrations on sarcoid and 26 on chronic bronchitis and emphysema cannot reflect the relative importance of these conditions. Nevertheless, the illustrations of patients, post-mortem specimens, histopathological sections, microbiological material and X-rays are well chosen. Any teacher would be glad of even a small fraction of these examples in his slide collection.

Quite correctly the text takes second place, and the authors point out in the preface that their volume 'will be a pictorial supplement to the numerous textbooks on the subject'. The legends are usually appropriate but the constraints of format lead to over-simplification (p. 77, cefoxitin is not the *only* treatment of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*) or errors (p. 378, phosphodiesterase does not inhibit adenylcyclase).

Ideally every student and young doctor would see typical examples of every important condition during his training or early years of practice. This is not always so, however, and it is as a visual aid to study at every level that this book will have most impact. Unfortunately the price will deter many, but considering the quality of the presentation this must be regarded as realistic.

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Essentials of geriatric medicine

By GEORGE F. ADAMS. 2nd edn. Pp. xi + 146. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York and Toronto, 1981. £4.95.

The second edition of *Essentials of Geriatric Medicine* is a book which I would recommend to anybody from student to consultant. It is concise, well laid out, and easy to read, covering all aspects of Geriatric Medicine. The new section on ageing gives all the current theories on ageing from genetic to autoimmune including the physiological effects. There is also a sub-section on the effect of ageing on individual systems and organs in the body. Neurological problems are dealt with in a simplistic but thorough manner. The best section was on the causes of failure to walk which would enlighten many a bemused houseman who is faced with a 'difficult' elderly patient who says they cannot walk. 'Where do you start?'. The book says it all.

Professor Adams has written a book which is compulsive and enjoyable reading but leaves you very well informed about the medical problems of the elderly.

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Gastroenterology I. Foregut

Edited by J. H. BARON and F. G. MOODY. Butterworths International Medical Reviews. Pp. 324, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, 1981. £13.50 (subscription price £10.50).

Yet another review book on gastroenterological topics, but this one is good value. 'Mid-Atlantic' in origin, the eclectic approach of its editors provides articles on oesophageal strictures, the surgical treatment of gastro-oesophageal reflux and oesophagitis, medical therapy of peptic ulcer disease and foregut motility from the United States, an analysis of foregut symptoms, regulatory peptides of the foregut and Menetrier's disease from the U.K., and chapters on the management of upper gastrointestinal haemorrhage from West Germany and carcinogenesis of the foregut from Finland.

The initial chapters on oesophageal strictures and surgery for reflux and oesophagitis overlap somewhat and contain a fair amount of operative detail; references to therapeutic endoscopic procedures are limited, but the section on gastro-oesophageal reflux and oesophagitis is excellent with clear illustrations. The reader should then turn to chapter 8, where there is a lucid account of the pathophysiology of gastro-oesophageal reflux as part of a fascinating review of foregut motility by Christensen. In a racily written contribution de Dombal reviews the diagnostic value of symptoms in foregut disease and shows the data sheets which he uses in Leeds and subsequently analyses by computer. The endocrine group from the Royal Postgraduate Medical School provide an authoritative update on the fast moving field of regulatory foregut peptides and from the same stable there is a very full account of Menetrier's disease, a superb review of this well-known if rare condition.

Two gastrointestinal 'chestnuts' are included: one, on alimentary haemorrhage and the other on the medical therapy of peptic ulcer disease. The former covers the medical and endoscopic ground well, if in rather 'lecture note' style, but contains little about surgery. The latter is an exceptionally well written and documented review of the present position in non-surgical treatment for peptic ulcer, and should be required reading for all gastroenterologists. The final contribution, on the aetiological factors in cancer of the oesophagus and stomach is most interesting. The Finnish writers expound the Lauren classification of gastric cancer into intestinal (epidemic) and diffuse (endemic) types and make a good case with a well argued summary.

The general standard of presentation is excellent, and with the