Books received

ABC of 1 to 7. Articles from the British Medical Journal. H. B. VALMAN. Pp. 108, illustrated. British Medical Association, London, 1982. £7.50.

Alcohol Problems. ABC of Alcohol and Alcoholism. Articles from the British Medical Journal. Pp. 59, illustrated. British Medical Association, London, 1982. £5.00

Emergencies in the Home. Articles published in the British Medical Journal. Pp. 112, illustrated. British Medical Association, London, 1982. £5.00.

Recent Advances in Endocrinology and Metabolism—2. Edited by J. L. H. O'RIORDAN. Pp. 333, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, 1982. £18.00.

Sex Problems in Practice. Articles from the British Medical Journal. Pp. 81. British Medical Association, London, 1982. £4.00.

Surgical Pathology of the Nervous System and its Coverings. By PETER C. BURGER and F. STEPHEN VOGEL. Second edition, Pp. xiii + 739, illustrated. John Wiley, New York, Chichester, 1982. £50.50.

Viral Infections of the Nervous System. By RICHARD T. JOHNSON. Pp. xi + 433, illustrated. Raven Press, New York, 1982. \$74.80.

Book reviews

The Battered Child. Recognition in Primary Care.

By NEIL O'DOHERTY. Pp. 57, illustrated. Bailliere Tindall, London, 1982. £9.75.

Neil O'Doherty has produced a first class primer of child abuse, to aid diagnosis on presentation. Cases of inflicted injury are escaping recognition, partially because the diagnosis does not occur to the attendants and partially because the inexperienced may feel unable to differentiate the patterns of accidental from non-accidental trauma.

The Battered Child demonstrates with great clarity and beautiful photography just how easily the alerting signs can be recognized. It simplifies the clinical presentations in much the same way as the classical *Atlas of the Battered Child Syndrome* by Cameron and Rae makes the radiological appearances easily interpretable by the non-expert.

The book is short, consisting mainly of excellent illustrations and the text is kept to a minimum of essential information. This touches on those features of the history, clinical examination and family relationships and attitudes which together make the diagnosis of child abuse. Distinguishing features from accidental trauma and from diseases which may mimic inflicted injury are carefully elucidated. The potential seriousness of relatively minor injury is stressed, since serious injury or death may follow.

Professor O'Doherty states that the majority of cases of child abuse should be preventable since deficient mother-child bonding in the newborn nursery is easily recognized and set right by support and explanation. Unfortunately, the problem is easier to recognize than to rectify, although considerable efforts are now being made along these lines in some areas of the country.

This book is a superb introduction for the general practitioner, casualty officer, trainee paediatrician, health visitor and student. It should also be made available in departments, such as orthopaedic, plastic and dental not customarily dealing with child abuse.

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Clinical Pharmacy and Hospital Drug Management

By D. H. LAWSON and R. M. E. RICHARDS. Pp. xv + 284, illustrated. Chapman and Hall, London, 1982. £17.50.

Traditionally, hospital pharmacists have been responsible for the purchase and/or manufacture of medicines and the supply of these to patients in the wards, clinics and other hospital departments on prescription by clinicians. However, in the past two decades this role has been expanded to cater for numerous developments in health care. For example, the vast amount of information about medicines,

both new and old, their adverse effects and interactions one with another has necessitated some specialization in the supply of drug information. Similarly, the increasing use of radionuclides in the diagnosis of disease, as well as its treatment, has been responsible for the development of the specialty of radio-pharmacy. The changing role of the hospital pharmacist and his increasing interaction with other members of the health care professions is described in the 14 chapters of this book. Appropriately 11 of the 20 contributors come from Glasgow where there is a long tradition of co-operation between pharmacists and the Royal College of Physicians. Indeed, one of the editors is not only a consultant physician but is also Visiting Professor in the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Strathclyde.

Topics covered include the clinical relevance of the formulation of medicine (a most enjoyable chapter), radio-pharmacy, intravenous additives, enteral and parenteral nutrition, quality control, adverse effects of therapy, drug information and hospital formularies. All of these chapters are informative and of high quality, as is the final one on the purchase and distribution of medicines. More detail could have been given on the use of computers in the pharmacy and on the various systems of accounting, e.g. the ABC approach. Chapter 5, which deals with the subject of compliance (or adherence) provides a useful review of this important subject, but the criticism of prescription package inserts was perhaps not entirely justified. However, Chapter 7 on monitoring for efficacy and toxicity was less convincing. Many pharmacists will not wish or feel competent to undertake the tasks described therein which, in my view, are or should be an essential part of the training of doctors. I found myself unconvinced by the arguments advanced in favour of staff pharmacists tagging along on ward rounds. Obviously, there are situations where this may be appropriate but it is hard to believe that it would be sufficiently cost-effective to be applied universally.

Finally, three chapters appear to be out of place: the first, on clinical trials, must surely lie within the province of doctors rather than pharmacists. The second on drug metabolism and protein binding contained little of relevance and was lacking in information on the effects of disease. The third, on pharmacokinetics, was particularly disappointing; it contained too much jargon, numerous inaccuracies and unhelpful figures.

With the exception of these limitations the book is well produced and timely in its appearance. In the main, the editors have met their objectives of drawing together the various facets of the subject and providing an up-to-date account. However, more information could have been given on ward pharmacy services.

The book is likely to be read by practising pharmacists and students, but, five of the six chapters will appear to a wider audience, particularly those with a medical background.

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