

diagnosis. Considerable skill is required to carry out the crucial tests and prevent the patient being subjected to unnecessary investigations and hence a waste of time and money.

This book helps the clinician to select those tests which will be most rewarding and, with knowledge of their relative importance and accuracy, to plan the diagnostic process, measure the severity of the disease, assess the progress of the disease and the success or otherwise of treatment.

The range of subjects covered is wider than the title suggests. The first chapter on 'Lung Sounds' is intended to increase the diagnostic accuracy when using the stethoscope. The visual recording of crackles and wheezes, like the recording of the heart sounds in the phonocardiogram, is an elegant way of analysing these noises. The recording method, however, is too complicated for routine clinical use, but the clinician can transfer the examples illustrated, into his own auscultatory experience.

The chapter on physiology by Dr D.M. Denison is an excellent analysis of lung function and, by using relevant models, explains the complexities of lung mechanics. He then outlines the tests he thinks are important and gives a series of examples on patients studied at the Brompton Hospital. Not everyone would agree with his order of priorities. Blood gas analysis is surely the next most important test to simple spirometry. However, his approach is stimulating and many of his ideas deserve more detailed consideration.

Further chapters on exercise testing, screening and radiology follow and, as can be seen from the titles of these chapters, the work becomes a collection of unrelated essays rather than a guide to the diagnostic process. It might have been better to follow the normal chronological process, and, having started with the physical examination of the patient, proceed to radiology, biochemistry and microbiology, the more conventional methods of investigation, before carrying out the more complex ones which may only be available in very special, if not unique, centres.

It is doubtful whether techniques such as fibre-optic bronchoscopy can be learnt from books, and much of the detail of that chapter is better learnt in the endoscopy room.

The chapter on radioisotope imaging by Dr Fazio is excellent and, as these techniques become more readily available, the choice of which type of method for ventilation scans is of considerable importance. It is hoped that the supply of radioactive krypton will be more reliable. If not, aerosol techniques as described will probably have to be used.

Dr P.D.B. Davies' chapter on systemic disease and their complications is an excellent review of the effect on the lungs caused by generalised disease such as immunological deficiencies, connective tissue disorders etc. and, as does the chapter on occupational lung disease, gives examples of how the clinical investigations described in the previous chapters can best be applied.

Many of the subjects amplified in this book, for example the chapters on 'Bronchial Challenge' by Dr Pain and the one on 'The Nose' by Dr Mygind, Dr Borum and Dr Pedersen, extend beyond the normal text book and are particularly valuable.

This book should be read by all those interested in recent advances in thoracic medicine. It can be thoroughly recommended.

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Emergencies in the Home

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

The 20 articles contained in this little book were written by general practitioners, who acknowledge the assistance of specialists in the subjects concerned, and were published in the British Medical Journal. They deal with organization and equipment as well as a dozen or so medical emergencies and half a dozen conditions caused by accidents. They are clear and contain a good deal of sensible, practical advice that will be of value to students and trainees in

general practice, junior casualty officers and those thinking of setting up an outdoor emergency service.

One or two points of detail deserve mention. The statement that a fracture of the shaft of the femur can lead to the loss of 'as much as 1 litre' of blood presumably refers to the early loss; the total loss may be several times that amount. The description of Heimlich's manoeuvre is adequate and to one that has not always succeeded in attempts to intubate the trachea in hospital, the statement on page 78 that all doctors should be capable of laryngoscopic intubation reads strangely; however, a more realistic note is struck a few pages later. A particularly noteworthy error is the attribution to Pooh Bear of the remark about accidents that was made by Eeyore, and it is sad to see that one that chose his words with care was so sadly misquoted.

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The Emergency Book. How to Handle an Emergency and Save a Life!

By BRADLEY SMITH and GUS STEVENS. Pp. 137, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1982. £2.50.

The 11 articles are written for the layman with little or no knowledge of first aid and include suggestions for useful first aid equipment. Each subject is first introduced in a chatty sort of way that may appeal to the interested public, but is unnecessarily wordy. The steps to be taken are then set out as a series of tables, with illustrations that are posed photographs and mostly helpful. The instructions are clear.

The chapters on heart attack, choking and drowning are sound and sensible, but it takes a knowledgeable and judicious medical person to reduce the subject of shock to comprehensive simplicity that is of practical value. What the layman needs to know is there, but could be much more succinctly expressed. Poisoning and overdoses of drugs are dealt with in separate chapters and tend to comprehensiveness rather than the essentials. The section on 'accidents and injuries' include fractures, wounds and bleeding. It concentrates too much on makeshift splintage of fractures when what is usually required by the patient is comfortable support. One may wonder whether the use of pressure points and tourniquets has any place in such a book. It is not clear what sort of conditions the authors have in mind but they include a certain amount of continuing care. In the case of burns, if areas burned are to be mentioned, an illustration of the way of estimating them should be included. In the section on sudden illness and other emergencies it could have been mentioned that epileptics and diabetics know far more about their condition than the anxious (and the over-confident) first-aider. The section on childbirth would need to be read and re-read from time to time, but even then might leave the first aider in doubt about the choice of posture for the mother and the dilemma of urgent need to divide a strangling umbilical cord and the use of sterile scissors.

There have been better books on this ever-popular subject.

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Malignant Diseases of the Vulva

By STANLEY WAY assisted by DAVID GUTHRIE and PETER PHILIPS. Pp. 83, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh and London, 1982. £9.95.

Mr. Stanley Way made his area of the North of England a Mecca for gynaecologists. He now publishes details of his formidable personal series of vulval malignancies; 642, of which, as in other series, about 90% were squamous cell carcinomata.

References to the literature are scanty throughout and the sections on the historical background and possible aetiological factors and pathology are slight. Of the book's 83 pages, about 25 are devoted to

details of operative techniques. Readers must not expect the standard of photography available in books on operative surgery. The book will be of some interest to those who have been influenced by the author's work.

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Obstetric and Perinatal Immunology (No 16 in Current Topics in Immunology Series, edited by John Turk)

By MAURICE N. CAUCHI. Pp. ix + 148, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London. £12.50.

Doctor M.N. Cauchi sets out to discuss obstetric and perinatal immunology in 6 chapters: (1) Immunological aspects of the maternal-fetal interaction; (2) Immunological aspects of normal pregnancy; (3) Immune responses in the fetus and neonate; (4) Pre-eclamptic and other pregnancy-associated conditions; (5) Auto-immune disease in pregnancy; and (6) Prospects and perspectives. In the first chapter, there are numerous references to studies in laboratory animals which have questionable relevance to humans. The reader is told that it is 'unlikely that the secretory immunoglobulins in the uterus have any role to play in the maintenance of the fertilized ovum', but justification of this statement is not forthcoming. The section on blood group antigens is good, but comments on spontaneous abortion are not contemporary. Chapter 2 on immunological aspects of normal pregnancy is uncritical and leaves practically everything that has ever been measured as being of possible importance. This may be broadly true, but obstetricians need some horses onto which to place their bets. Chapter 3 contains some useful tables and figures, but one wonders about the validity of referring to T-cells in 1960 publications, before T-cells were described! Comments on the third component of complement in 1969 could also be usefully updated, as could 'unpublished observations' by the author concerning IgD on fetal lymphocytes, especially when so many good papers on this subject have been published. Chapter 4 on pre-eclampsia and other pregnancy-associated conditions, which is a rapidly advancing aspect of pregnancy research, provides too many old references. Immunogenetics is not seriously considered, and the role of HLA on trophoblast is largely misrepresented. Chapter 5 on autoimmune diseases in pregnancy wisely refers to Scott, for otherwise readers are told that systemic lupus erythematosus is a chronic multisystem inflammatory disease of 'females', which is only half time. The photomicrographs in this chapter are appalling, which is not the author's fault. The final chapter talks about 'sperm agglutinating antibody... in... patients following vasectomy' and 'IgE as an immunoregulatory agent in pregnancy', both topics requiring more than honorable

mention. I am not impressed by this book, but it is at least a step in the right direction, to close the present gap in hiatus between research in obstetrics and the application of this knowledge to current practice.

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Scientific Foundations of Paediatrics

Edited by JOHN A. DAVIS and JOHN DOBBING. 2nd edn. Pp. xvi + 1095, illustrated. William Heinemann Medical Books, London. 1981. £75.00.

This is not a text book of paediatrics but rather a compendium of essays on human developmental biology. It is the second edition of a book first published in 1974 and has now attained monumental proportions. There is an array of 70 distinguished contributors from 12 countries whose labours have resulted in over a thousand pages of text. The concept reflects the editors' belief that the study of development in its widest context is the foundation on which modern paediatrics must rest. The majority of the chapters are concerned with the growth and development of individual systems and organs with the emphasis ranging from anatomical structure to biochemical function. A new and welcome addition is devoted to the growth and development of behaviour and personality.

Seven chapters are given to so-called 'climacterics' which comprise the cardio-vascular events at birth, sexual differentiation in the fetus and new-born, and puberty. Finally a group of special topics include the epidemiological aspects of paediatrics in early life, circadian rhythms, oncology, bacterial infection of the fetus and colonization of the new born, and developmental pharmacology.

The chapters are well written, extensively referenced, and illustrated by numerous tables and graphs. The book is well produced and handsomely bound. It succeeds in bringing together a mass of information pertinent to paediatrics which is not easily accessible elsewhere and which cannot be included in standard clinical works. Critics of major multi-author text books have argued increasingly that they impose undue constraints on authors and editors alike with the implication that a series of similar more specialized books or monographs would be preferred. They will however find little to support that contention in this volume which is commended to hospital and departmental librarians as an invaluable source of reference which should be accessible to all doctors and students involved in paediatrics.

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