

Books received

- The Challenge of Pain.* By RONALD MELZACK and PATRICK D. WALL. Revised edition of *The Puzzle of Pain*. Pp. 447, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1982.
- A Colour Atlas of Gynaecological Surgery Vol. 6 Surgery of Conditions Complicating Pregnancy.* By DAVID H. LEES and ALBERT SINGER. Pp. 213, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1982. £35.00.
- Multiple Choice Questions for the MRCP.* By PANKAJ JOSHI. Pp. xi + 253. Butterworth Scientific, London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1982. £6.95.
- Phobias.* By ROSS MITCHELL. Pp. 104, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1982. £1.95.
- Practical Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.* By PETER B. COTTON and CHRISTOPHER B. WILLIAMS. 2nd edn. Pp. xi + 204, illustrated. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Boston, Melbourne, 1982. £16.50.
- Textbook of Orthopaedic Medicine, Vol. 1: Diagnosis of Soft Tissue*

- Lesions.* By JAMES CYRIAX. 8th edn. Pp. xi + 502, illustrated. Baillière Tindall, London. £21.00.
- TNM Classification of Breast Cancer.* Edited by M. H. HARMER. Pp. 17. International Union Against Cancer, Geneva, 1982. Sw.Fr.4.00.
- TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours: A Brochure of Checklists.* Developed by A. H. SELLERS. UICC Technical Report Series—Vol. 51, 1st edn., enlarged and revised, loose leaves and ring binder, illustrated. International Union Against Cancer, Geneva, (Distributed by Hans Huber, Berne, Switzerland), 1982. Unpriced.
- TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours.* Edited by M. H. HARMER. 3rd edn., enlarged and revised. Pp. 169. International Union Against Cancer, Geneva, 1982. Sw.Fr.8.50.
- TNM Classification of Paediatric Tumours.* Edited by M. H. HARMER. Pp. 28. International Union Against Cancer, Geneva, 1982. Sw.Fr.4.50.

Book reviews

ABC of 1 to 7

By H. B. VALMAN. Articles from the British Medical Journal. Pp. 108, illustrated. British Medical Association, London, 1982. £7.50.

This is the 'book of the series' written in the British Medical Journal last year by Dr Valman on common problems in children aged 1-7 years. In his preface to the book, Dr Stephen Lock, the Editor of the BMJ, states that it is intended for general practitioners, medical students and clinical medical officers. It is an unfortunate fact of life, however, that these 3 clinical groups have very different requirements from a textbook. For example, the 20% of the book devoted to NHS services for children will be, or should be, wasted on medical graduates, though conceivably could be of use to medical students; conversely the majority of clinical medical officers will not be concerned with the hospital management of epiglottitis, appendicitis, gastroenteritis or the severely-ill child.

Despite the problems of catering for different audiences, the great merit of this book, as with the original articles, is that the common paediatric problems are they present to a general practitioner or a hospital clinic are dealt with by an experienced paediatrician who is also an experienced writer. Each chapter gives a clear concise description of an individual condition and its management. By being didactic, it will ruffle some readers—for instance I think recurrent bronchitis is over-investigated, and febrile fits over-treated. I believe penicillin is a good drug for otitis media, tricyclics are good drugs for enuresis, diazepam is good for status epilepticus and psychiatrists are bad for asthmatics! I would like to see mesenteric adenitis mentioned under abdominal pain, and vulvovaginitis under urinary infection. By its illustrations, it will infuriate many readers. Many are either banal or uninterpretable, particularly when, as in many cases, the same picture is used in more than one situation; why can decent legends not be provided for charts, X-rays or clinical pictures to the exclusion of photographs of Dr Valman and his colleagues chatting to the inhabitants of Harrow. With didactic texts like this it is invaluable if the author provides a few key references with each chapter to justify the prejudices. It is a pity that none are provided. It is a little pricey at £7.50.

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Clinics in Oncology. Vol. 1 March 1982 Hormone Therapy

Edited by B. J. A. FURR. Pp. 312, illustrated. W. B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, 1982. £10.75.

This is the first volume of Clinics in Oncology and as such will be eagerly awaited by those interested in clinical aspects of cancer. The other series have a justifiably high reputation and this first volume of the new series sets a high standard. It is devoted to scientific and clinical aspects of hormone therapy. The emphasis throughout is on the rational basis for hormone therapy in tumours. A lot of attention is given to hormone treatment of breast cancer both as an adjuvant to surgery and in advanced disease. The cellular basis of the activity of antioestrogens and aromatase inhibitors is discussed in detail as is the relationship of prognosis to oestrogen receptor status. Other topics include hormone treatment of endometrial, prostatic, thyroid and pituitary tumours. The contributions are of a high standard and this volume, and doubtless the ones to follow, will be welcomed both by oncologists and by general physicians and surgeons with an interest in cancer management.

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Developmental Toxicology

Edited by KEITH SNELL. Pp. 350, illustrated. Croom Helm, London, 1982. £22.50.

It might be said that this book is fantastic but, in the true meaning of the word, that would be unfair. In no other volume, surely, is such a wealth of knowledge and references in developmental toxicology brought together within the compass of 2 hard covers and some 300 pages. The avowed aim of the editor has been 'to show the current status of various aspects of research' in this subject and, to this end, he has succeeded excellently. The ordinary toxicologist and, more so, the physician or paediatrician turning to it will be amazed at the refinements, the elaborations and the profundity to which research in this field has already advanced. Anyone seriously interested in this study will find it an indispensable reference.

On the other hand, the clinician, or even the obstetrician or paediatrician professionally concerned with child development, may