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 as 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.

N. R. C. ROBERTON,
Addenbrook's Hospital,
Hills Road,
Cambridge CB2 2QQ.

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.

R. L. SOUHAMi,
University College Hospital,
Medical School,
London WC1E 6JJ.

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

be daunted when he turns to this text. Perhaps he may be forgiven for wondering, in this world teeming with xenobiotics, how any child at all manages to be born and to develop with any semblance of normality. From the research findings cited, the odds would seem to be against this ever happening. The sheer facility with which many of the tests can be executed has its dangers, notably in trying to interpret the expanding host of positive findings to the holistic, human situation. More dangerously, too, isolated discoveries in tissue culture, biochemical mechanisms, developmental carcinogenicity and so on, may easily be lifted out of context by those, maybe, not over-endowed with scientific integrity emotionally then to condemn one, or other, particular agent on the grounds that there is evidence to show that it deforms the foetus, or little children! The constraints in this respect might have been a little more emphasized.

In all, then, this is a book which will be highly informative to the scientific specialist rather than to the general run of medical readers.

R. GOULDING,
Keats' House,
Guy's Hospital,
London SE1 9RT.

Examination Notes in Psychiatry

By JONATHAN BIRD and GLYNN HARRISON. Pp. 278. John Wright, PSG Inc., Boston, Bristol and London, 1982. £7.50.

This is an ambitious book, since it claims to be a guide to the content of the Membership Examination of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and equivalent examinations. The book contains some 25 chapters, with conventional headings such as Schizophrenia, Affective Disorders, Neurotic Disorders, Drug Therapy etc. Each chapter is composed of a series of brief notes in telegraphic English, very much in the style of lecture notes. They are intended to serve as reminders about something that the reader has previously learned. In addition, at the end of each chapter are a small number of key references. The fact that a significant proportion of these references are from the British Journal of Hospital Medicine indicates that the level of discourse that is attempted is practical rather than academic.

If the book is used in the spirit which the authors intend, i.e. as a way of organizing information already learned, and as a convenient way of revision for somebody who has already done a good deal of ground work, then it will serve a very useful purpose. However, there are two dangers in producing a volume of this nature. First, it may be quite wrongly regarded as a syllabus for the examination of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The authors make no pretence that this is the case, but naive or unwary postgraduate students may presume this, simply because of its convenience and its comprehensive coverage. Second, it may be regarded by the less industrious as a basic source of information in itself and used as a substitute for a more comprehensive literature. It could thus become a source of lists to be learnt, parrot-fashion, without a proper understanding of the underlying content.

This book will probably be popular with psychiatric trainees for the next year or two, although it may well soon run into the problem of not being up-to-date. Presumably, the authors will provide fairly frequent up-dating of the information. It could well be that clinical tutors will have the main responsibility for ensuring that this book is used by trainees to the best advantage. Examiners in the Membership examination of the Royal College will also, no doubt, be keeping an eye open for the mechanical repetition of lists and phrases found within it.

J. E. COOPER,
Department of Psychiatry,
University of Nottingham Medical School.

Human Herpesvirus Infections. Clinical Aspects

Edited by RONALD GLASER and TAMAR GOTLIEB-STEMATSKY. Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Agents/2. Pp. 280, illustrated. Marcel Dekker, New York, 1982. Sw.Fr.105.00.

Herpes virus infections have been a subject of great interest in recent

years and considerable advances have been made in understanding their pathogenesis and, to some extent, also in their treatment, so this multi-author book about clinical aspects of human herpes virus infections is timely. It contains 6 reviews by eminent American workers with one chapter on each of the herpes viruses affecting man, with the exception of Epstein-Barr virus which gets 2 chapters, and there is a concluding chapter on therapy and prevention.

Each review is comprehensive in its way, but there is variation in the type of subject matter chosen. Varicella-zoster virus is particularly well covered, but the chapter about herpes simplex infections shows a considerable bias towards type 2 infection and is weak on type 1 with, for example, little about the major difficulties surrounding herpes encephalitis. Even the association between genital infection with type 2 virus and neonatal disease receives only brief mention.

There is also a slight imbalance in the chapters on Epstein-Barr virus infection with an excellent and highly comprehensive section on neurological complications, but little about other clinical manifestations. However, there is an authoritative chapter from G. and W. Henle on the serology of Epstein-Barr virus infection.

For a book about clinical aspects of these infections, there are very few illustrations, but this is more than compensated for by the number of references. Overall it is a useful book for postgraduates and it is relevant to specialists in several different fields.

M. WANSBROUGH-JONES,
St. George's Hospital Medical School,
London SW17 0RE.

The Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease

By C. A. MIMS. 2nd edn. Pp. ix + 297, illustrated. Academic Press, London, 1982. £11.80 (\$22.00).

This is an updating of a well established book. It deals with the entry of microorganisms into the body of the host and with the events which follow: phagocytosis, spread, immune responses, mechanisms of cell and tissue damage, culminating in recovery or failure to eliminate the organism. There are thoughtful sections on microbial strategies in relation to immune responses, on factors influencing susceptibility, and on vaccines.

Each chapter is followed by a brief reference list, leaving the text uncluttered. This contributes to the book's great readability, but makes it more difficult to identify the source of some of the statements. That is perhaps not of much consequence in an undergraduate text, but somewhat diminishes its value to trainees in pathology and microbiology. It should still be read by them because of its unfailing interest and its unceasing stream of stimulating ideas. If Professor Mims lectures as he writes, his students are very fortunate. This book should be in every medical library.

R. N. GRÜNEBERG,
University College Hospital,
London WC1E 6AU.

Recent Advances in Endocrinology and Metabolism

Edited by J. L. H. O'RIORDAN. Pp. 333, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, 1982. £18.00.

It is appropriate that this book is dedicated to Dr John (now Sir John) Nabarro, Physician and Endocrinologist at the Middlesex Hospital (1954-1981), whose valuable contributions to the field of clinical endocrinology spanned almost 3 decades. Jeffrey O'RIORDAN has gathered together a distinguished team of clinicians and basic scientists to outline some of the major recent advances in endocrinology and metabolism. Leslie Rees and R. Smith provide a useful update on the endogenous opiates, a field in which the Barts group have made so many important developments. The chapter by S. Bloom and T. Adrian on gut hormones and neuropeptides highlights the major new work in this field, stressing the close relationship of these apparently disparate groups of chemical messengers. The complex field of the somatomedins, a new group of tissue growth factors, is gradually being clarified. Deborah Doniach and Franco Bottazzo discuss their pioneering work on autoimmunity and the