

diagnostic criteria and the clinical implications of different lesions. Surgeons, too, should appreciate its clarity, but they will regret the virtual absence of correlation with clinical and diagnostic features, such as computed tomography (CT) and isotope scans. Both may be puzzled by reference lists better suited to an encyclopaedia.

'Burger and Vogel' is worth using in its field, but it may be best to supplement it with works better focussed on topics of specific interest.

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Taking Uterine Cervical Smears

By J. ELIZABETH MACGREGOR. Pp. 20, illustrated. British Society for Clinical Cytology, London, 1982. 30p (50p including postage).

The target area for the detection of pre-invasive squamous cancer of the cervix uteri is well defined and a satisfactory sample carries internal evidence in the form of representative cells. A negative report based on a smear which has missed the target area may well create a false sense of security; rejection of such a smear by a discerning cytologist may result in confusion. Communication and understanding between the person who takes the smear and the person who interprets and reports it, are essential factors in the success of a screening programme directed to the elimination of a preventable cancer.

Recently publicized disquiet about the proportion of inadequate smears has exposed an urgent need to establish this understanding, a need fully met by this excellent booklet.

Simple and precise instructions for the taking of a reliable uterine cervical smear are illustrated and the reasons explained. Representative photographs of the various abnormal cells and pathogens help communication by transforming an arid report into a vivid picture. The oft repeated questions as to the desirable age and frequency of screening and the identifying characteristics of the group at high risk of developing cervical cancer are clearly answered.

The booklet has been in great demand since its publication and should lead to a significant improvement in the quality of the smears and a more rational use of the available screening facilities.

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Viral Infections of the Nervous System

By RICHARD T. JOHNSON. Pp. xi + 433, illustrated. Raven Press, New York, 1982. \$74.80.

This book is written by one of the world's foremost authorities on neurovirology. For this reason, I had great expectations of this book, which I am pleased to say were most admirably met in every respect.

The book covers a wide range of neurovirological subjects, all of which are dealt with in a general but remarkably comprehensive way. Professor Johnson starts with very readable sections on basic virology, including virus-cell interactions, the pathogenesis of CNS

viral infections and a discussion of immune responses to viruses. The second section of the book is concerned with acute neurological diseases caused by viruses. A variety of syndromes are discussed and pathogenic mechanisms are emphasized throughout. I particularly enjoyed the section on herpes simplex virus encephalitis, the pathogenesis of which Johnson has done much to elucidate. Part III deals with chronic neurological diseases, including viral infections of the fetal nervous system, chronic inflammatory and demyelinating diseases, degenerative CNS diseases thought to be caused by slow viruses and virological aspects of cerebral tumours. Finally, he discusses 'other perspectives' including diagnostic methods in neurovirology, and gives an extremely clear account of the prevention and therapy of neurovirological diseases.

To conclude, Professor Johnson offers us a beautifully written and illustrated book, which is comprehensive, stimulating, enjoyable to read and outstanding for its clarity of expression. Although the book is expensive, it should be possessed by all medical libraries. It is essential reading for neurologists, virologists, and other clinicians and scientists who are interested in the nervous system and its susceptibility to viral infections.

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Work and Health

By ANDREW MELHUIH. Pp. 208, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1982. £2.50.

Dr Andrew Melhuish is a General Practitioner in Henley and, like his previous senior partner, became involved and interested in both managers and management, through the Administrative Staff College which is on his doorstep. Over the years, his interest in this somewhat neglected field has developed and expanded and he has had considerable experience in advising individuals and companies about improving their personal and corporate health. He takes a sensibly broad view of the content of health which is encouraging. The credibility and usefulness of industrial medicine/occupational health would, in my view, be much improved if those involved (which includes their employers) took a similar view.

Dr Melhuish has written a sensible, useful and readable book about the relationship between work and health for both the public and profession. Stress is currently a growth cult, badly dealt with and usually misunderstood. However, particularly in its wider aspects with regard to work and the family, it is handled very well in this book.

Although all the main topic areas are adequately covered, I would like to have seen more practical advice, particularly about where to get help in areas like heavy drinking, preparation for retirement stress control and so on. The book gives good overview of a complicated area and can be strongly recommended for doctors and their patients.

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NOTICE

The 23rd British Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology will be held in Birmingham, England from 12-15 July 1983. The scientific programme will comprise main sessions of invited papers, subsidiary sessions of free communications, posters and a film and video programme. A full and varied social programme is also planned.

The Preliminary Programme, Registration and Summary Forms may be obtained from the Congress Office, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RG.