but medical students and undergraduates would need to progress to a larger, more complete work. It would be of value as a general overview of neurophysiology for people working in related fields such as medical physicists, laboratory technicians, speech therapists and similar professions.

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Leukaemia

Edited by N. L. WARNER and D. METCALF. A series of workshops on the Biology of Human Cancer. Report No. 14. UICC Technical Reports Series Vol. 61. Pp. 232. International Union Against Cancer, Geneva, 1982. (Distributed by Hans Huber, Bern, Switzerland). Sw.Fr. 44.00.

Leukaemia must surely be one of the most exciting areas in which a medical scientist could currently be involved. The dramatic advances in treatment over the last 2 or 3 decades are now being mirrored by an understanding of the basic cellular and sub-cellular mechanisms. Indeed, new bone marrows are being exchanged for old! So how can this subject be turned into such heavy reading? The answer can only be, by committee.

Fortunately, the content of this particular Workshop is excellent, with a comprehensive review of the biology of both leukaemic cells in man and sub-human species and their normal equivalents, by some of the most outstanding workers in the field. Obviously, there must be advantages in publishing the proceedings of Workshops. This is clearly seen in the way in which both sides of the argument are presented, this being best illustrated in the section on aetiology of leukaemia. In fact, it is this last section in which some of the most recent and potentially useful developments have been made, especially the identification by Gallo and his co-workers, at long last, of a virus which appears to have a definite role in the development of an albeit rare type of human leukaemia. This work is extremely topical and of great interest, especially the probable role of virus in human oncogenic expression and the relationship of products of those oncogenes to cell proliferation.

Many other topics are dealt with, including the application of immunology to the diagnosis of leukaemia and a comprehensive review of cytogenetics in leukaemia, a topic likely to become more important in the future for identification of patients likely to perform poorly with conventional therapy. A further section dealing with the recognised patterns of leukaemia cell growth *in vitro* speculates about the possible future benefit of predictive tests of leukaemia sensitivity to various therapeutic agents based on the *in vitro* sensitivity of cultured leukaemic cells. On this topic, the clinician is yet to be convinced.

For me, the most exciting section was certainly that on the aetiology of leukaemia with the often controversial evidence for the role of such diverse agents as radiation and virus being comprehensively reviewed.

This publication should certainly be of interest to both basic scientists and clinicians working in the field of leukaemia, one of the major attractions being the extensive bibliography with 581 references.

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Manson's Tropical Diseases

By P. E. C. MANSON-BAHR and F. I. C. APTED. 18th edn. Pp. 843, illustrated. Bailliere Tindall, London, 1982. £30.00.

Is tropical medicine synonymous with medicine in the tropics? Most people who have worked in the tropics would deny this, and would restrict the use of the term 'tropical diseases' to those diseases which, by virtue of biological, climatic, social or environmental conditions occur exclusively or predominantly in the tropics and subtropics. Manson's original work, first published in 1898, was deliberately named a manual, 'of handy size; for the exigencies of travel and of tropical life are, as a rule, incompatible with big volumes'. Clearly,

the situation has changed and this, the 18th edition, continues the pattern of growth of standard textbooks. The 18th edition weighs 1.75 kg, compared to 1.75 kg for the 17th edition. The contents are arranged in the same basic style as in previous editions; a short introduction on non-infective disorders and anaemia in the tropics is followed by sections of aetiologically organized descriptions of tropical diseases; protozoal, helminthic, viral, bacterial, spirochaetal, rickettsial, fungal. The tropical venereal diseases lymphogranuloma venereum and granuloma inguinale are included here. The last sections deal with diseases of the environment, nutritional disorders, venous and poisons, ophthalmology, and drugs. There are appendices, 186 pages long, dealing with detailed descriptive protozoology, helminthology and entomology. The book purports to serve two aims; as a textbook for students and as a general reference book for practitioners in the field.

Students, I believe, will find too much here: a smaller manual dealing with clinical parasitology would be all that is required (even for students in tropical countries). If only the truly tropical diseases had been included, the book would have been first class. However, the introduction of non-tropical (but none the less important) topics has led to serious imbalances and omissions. Pulmonary tuberculosis, perhaps the most important single tropical disease after malaria, is dealt with in 4 pages, while brucellosis, an unimportant disease in the tropics, receives 7 pages. Gonorrhoea, of huge importance, is not mentioned, hepatitis is summarily dealt with in 2½ pages (and excludes virtually all the clinical aspects of hepatitis B). Poliomyelitis is dismissed in one page, and measles in 2 and so on. The section on drugs includes some curious compounds (Glaucaurubin, pelletierine, stilbazium, etc), which even the author admits are not generally available, so why include them?

The authors are clearly confused: is this to be a textbook of tropical diseases, or a textbook of medicine in the tropics? If the former, it is too extensive, if the latter, too imbalanced.

Now, the good news. The publishers have radically altered the format of the book. The cover contains a striking photomicrograph of the head of a mosquito: the book is larger in size, the pages are arranged in 2 columns and much easier to scan, the quality of the line drawings is excellent: numerous, new black and white photographs have been included: the references have been updated. The cost (£30) seems reasonable for a book of this size.

Clearly, this is a textbook which should be on the shelves of any medical library. If (when) I return to the tropics, I might pack it in my sea-mail, but it will not be a priority book for my travelling library.

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Medical Data Interpretation For MRCP

By ROGER GABRIEL and CYNTHIA M. GABRIEL. 2nd edn. Pp. xiv + 210, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, Sydney, Wellington, Durban, Toronto, 1982. £3.95.

This second edition maintains the high standards which made the first so popular and helpful for MRCP candidates. There are chapters of questions covering all systems and the final chapter provides the answers with helpful explanations attached to these answers.

If a candidate masters the 300 interpretations in this book, he should have no difficulty in the Data section of the MRCP examination. It is strongly recommended for just this purpose.

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The Newborn Child

By D. G. VULLIAMY. 5th edn. Pp. 217, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh and London, 1982. £5.95.

This is the 5th edition of this successful primer of neonatal medicine. In the first 4 chapters, the care of the normal newborn is dealt with in some detail. There is then a chapter on the preterm infant, including

a description of the main illness in such infants—respiratory distress syndrome, and the last 5 chapters in the book cover other respiratory illnesses, neurological problems, infections, jaundice and malformations.

There are particularly good descriptions of general aspects of neonatology such as the interpretation of perinatal statistics, the management of mother-child attachment, talking to parents, minimal handling of sick infants, resuscitation, and the care and examination of the normal fullterm newborn, though the section on infant feeding would benefit from showing some more conviction about the benefits of the new whey-based infant formulas, and a table showing the composition of different milks would also be helpful.

Dr Vulliamy's apparent unwillingness to commit himself about which type of milk to give, is typical of the book as a whole. The approach is, in general, discursive rather than didactic, and specific illness orientated rather than clinical problem orientated. While it might be said that this gives a fairer view of the subject, in this type of short book there is a risk of confusing the reader, and it also seriously reduces the book's value as a practical guide even for the management of healthy fullterm infants. The lack of problem orientation means that it is not possible to look up what to do with a grunting neonate, or a possibly infected baby—perhaps the two commonest clinical situations which confront a nurse or a resident in a maternity hospital.

Although the topics covered in the second half of the book have been 'modernised' for this 5th edition, there is still some imbalance, and an old fashioned feel about it. Neonatal hypocalcaemic fits and intracerebral birth trauma are now virtually extinct; choanal atresia, galactosaemia and epispadias are extremely rare, yet all these conditions receive much more attention than common problems such as meconium aspiration or transient tachypnoea; intraventricular haemorrhage, now the commonest cause of death in the neonatal period, is scarcely mentioned. Many of the rarer conditions mentioned would be better dealt with by much freer use of diagrams and/or tables. The author—or the editors—have some difficulty in converting from old to new units; a P_{O_2} of 100 mmHg is 13 kPa in some places and 14 kPa in others, and it is particularly sad to see the seriously incorrect conversion of $2\frac{1}{2}$ oz/lb to 150 ml/kg being perpetuated yet again.

These are, however, minor criticisms of what is, and, despite the presence of a plethora of new books on the care of very sick infants, will justifiably remain a popular primer for those working with newborn babies. Furthermore, at £5.95, it is a bargain.

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Phenoxybenzamine in Disorders of Micturition. Proceedings of a symposium held at the Cavendish Conference Centre, London November 1981

Edited by W. KEITH YEATES. Pp. 103, illustrated. Smith Kline and French, Welwyn Garden City, 1982. Free of charge.

Although this is a give-away from a drug company, and has all the makings of a dreary write-up of a symposium designed to puff a pharmaceutical preparation, it is, in fact, a very valuable collection of important essays on one of the most interesting aspects of modern urology. It is an oversimplification to say that because there are alpha-adrenergic receptors in the smooth muscle around the bladder neck, when the bladder neck fails to relax, it will do good to block these fibres by giving phenoxybenzamine; nevertheless, giving the drug does do good, and may put off or even avoid, an operation to cut or remove obstructing tissue at the neck of the bladder. However, alpha-receptors are not confined to the neck of the bladder, and when they are blocked, results are by no means so clear cut. In this excellent little book, the clinical uses of phenoxybenzamine are clearly set out by Marco Caine, who first used it extensively, and its physiology clearly described by McGuire and Gibbon. The message is clear, this drug has an important place in the management of a wide range of patients with different disorders of urination, but it

must be used intelligently and with proper circumspection. It is not, and never was pretended to be—"a pill for the prostate". It is, however, a very useful drug and this is an excellent guide to those who wish to use it.

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Recent Advances in Geriatric Medicine No. 2

Edited by BERNARD ISAACS. Pp. viii + 283, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh and London, 1982. £12.00.

The quality of Professor Isaacs' second 'Recent advances in Geriatric Medicine' makes one regret the 4 year interval since the first. The book is divided under two headings. The first is 'Content' which comprises assessment, treatment, gerontology, and epidemiology. The article by Professor Sleight on cardiac pacing is particularly impressive. Others cover various subjects and their pharmacology, one being hypnotics, which are surely the most paradoxical of drugs, being purely subtractive, saving no lives, yet they are among the most widely used and the most dangerous. Gerontology is well served, particularly by Professor Burnet on ageing. Psychiatry concerns us all, especially since the R.C.P. report on dementia and the materialisation of the psychogeriatrician. Dr Bergmann's description of the 'cloak of invisibility that covers the elderly depressive' rings particularly true.

The book's second heading is 'Organisation'. Professor Prinsley reports the solutions that are developing in Australia. The Multitier Geriatric Complex provides complete care on one campus—an attractive concept, but the old lunatic asylum did just that, at an unacceptable cost in isolation and human dignity. Such a unit must at all costs, relate, to the community it serves.

Professor Isaacs and Dr Horrocks present 2 almost incompatible views of the future. The 'Physician with an Interest' does geriatrics part-time—can his commitment to the elderly be any more than part-time? Dr Horrocks' geriatrician certainly is totally committed. Perhaps in the future he could develop his own 'interest'? Dr Horrocks' concept has been outstandingly successful for 12 years. The crucial point, however, is that only District General Hospital beds are capable of being used to the necessary efficiency by either type of physician. Peripheral beds cannot but be static and inefficient.

There is much to praise, and little to criticise in this controversial and stimulating book.

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Tutorials in Differential Diagnosis

By E. R. BECK, J. L. FRANCIS and R. L. SOUHAMI. 2nd edn. Pp. 299, illustrated. Pitman Books, London, 1982. £7.50.

'What is the use of a book' thought Alice 'without pictures or conversations'. Thus thought Alice in Wonderland, and the present plethora of new books has caused similar thoughts to pass through my mind on numerous occasions. Most books will, undoubtedly, end up on library shelves gathering dust, but here is an outstanding exception. It has a purpose, it is undoubtedly useful, and it will be bought. It would be of some value to undergraduate students, but its main audience must be the M.R.C.P. aspirant, for whom it is a must. It is also appealing to those who have made it, but who wish to keep up-to-date, and it is also helpful as an aide to thinking about a difficult diagnostic problem.

Its format is unusual but works well. The authors have selected signs and symptoms commonly encountered in clinical practice and discussed them with the emphasis on those features of the history and examination which are important in differential diagnosis. This