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*Postgraduate Medical Journal* publishes original papers on subjects of current clinical importance and welcomes review articles with extensive, up-to-date bibliographies as guides to further reading. Several symposia are published each year, each devoted to a single subject and written by specialists in different disciplines. Most issues include authoritative Current Surveys of clinical problems, and well documented Reports of cases of particular interest, and Book Reviews.

A 'Notice to Contributors' is published on the inside back cover of this issue. The Editor reserves the right to make changes which may clarify or condense papers where this is considered desirable.

The Journal is covered by *Current Contents*, *Biological Abstracts*, *ASCA*, *ISI/BIOMED* and *Science Citation Index*.

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*Postgraduate Medical Journal* is published monthly for the Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine by

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## Books received

*Babyhood.* By PENELOPE LEACH. 2nd edn., revised and expanded. Pp. 579, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1983. £4.95.  
*Chest Medicine.* Edited by R. B. GEORGE, R. W. LIGHT and R. A. MATHAY. Pp. x+657, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1983. £35.00.  
*A Colour Atlas of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery.* CHARLES GRANT CLARK. Pp. 168, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1983. £50.00.  
*Diseases of the Esophagus.* Edited by SIDNEY COHEN and ROGER D. SOLOWAY. Contemporary Issues in Gastroenterology Vol. 1. Pp. xii+305, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London and Melbourne, 1982. £28.00.  
*Herpes: the Facts.* By J. K. OATES. Pp. 123, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1983. £1.50.

*Leukemia.* Edited by F. W. GUNZ and E. S. HENDERSON. 4th edn. Pp. xxv+986, illustrated. Grune and Stratton, New York and London, 1983. \$95.00.  
*Martindale: The Extra Pharmacopoeia.* Edited by JAMES E. F. REYNOLDS (Assistant Editor ANNE B. PRASAD), 28th edn. Pp. xxx+2025. The Pharmaceutical Press, London, 1982. £57.00.  
*Practical Orthopaedic Medicine.* By BRIAN CORRIGAN and G. D. MAITLAND. Pp. xiii+421, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1983. £40.00.  
*A Synopsis of Haematology.* By JOHN D. M. RICHARDS, DAVID C. LINCHE and ATHONY G. GOLDSTONE. Pp. viii+306, illustrated. Wright, PSG, Bristol, London, Boston, 1983. £10.00.

## Book reviews

### 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. £4.95.

This book is a revised and expanded version of Professor Melzack's earlier work entitled 'The Puzzle of Pain' published in 1977. In the current work, the author of the original volume is joined by his 'Gate Control Theory' partner, Professor Patrick Wall, and this formidable team has provided a book that is not only easy to read but is also informative and provocative.

Chapters on basic experiences and concepts of pain are followed by neuroanatomy and physiology, together with the various theories of nociceptive transmission and appreciation clearly propounded. Welcome additions to the original material are chapters on current pain control practices including neurosurgery, sensory and psychological techniques. Pain Clinics and Hospices are also fully covered and the concluding essay is on the future of pain control.

Unfortunately, it is in the newer material that some contradictions occur, omissions are made and certain key references are absent, all of which detracts from the completeness of this otherwise comprehensive survey of contemporary thought and practice. Some readers may also find the occasional lapse into Mid-Atlantic jargon jars amidst generally smooth-flowing prose.

However, the overall impression is that this book adequately satisfies the need for a bridge between the lay and the scientific literature concerning pain. Melzack and Wall have again provided a lead which will enable interested persons to acquire depth and complexity of knowledge about pain suitable to their need.

Undoubtedly a best buy, even though the quality of reproduction does not match the high standard of the text.

KEITH BUDD,  
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### 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.

The 6th volume of David Lees' and Albert Singer's book maintains the high standard of photography together with lucidity of text achieved in previous volumes. The authors highlight the problem of text-books in operative surgery, namely that of conveying to the reader structures which are often all too different in real-life situations. This they achieve by the adoption of a 'slide presentation technique' which works splendidly, especially when photographs rather than line drawings are used.

This volume of the Atlas is particularly useful since it brings together surgical aspects of pregnancy which are rarely considered as a whole. For many years, the standard text in surgical obstetrics has been Munro Kerr's 'Text-book of Operative Obstetrics', a classic work which has tended, however, through its various editions, to be rather let down by the quality of the illustrations, which have failed, in the reviewer's opinion, to enlighten the text. The same, certainly, cannot be said of the Atlas, in which photographs and drawings comprise the major part.

The chapters which deal with the control of haemorrhage in obstetrics, and the techniques of subtotal and total hysterectomy for uterine rupture are particularly good, providing many simple points which will undoubtedly be of great value to obstetricians faced with such problems with little first-hand experience. No mention, however, is made of the management of massive vulval haematoma, the occurrence of which, although uncommon, can be very worrying and extremely difficult to manage, and could well have usefully been included in this volume. However, this omission apart, this volume adds considerably to the Atlas as a whole and can be thoroughly recommended.

JUNE SWINHOE,  
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Upney Lane,  
Barking, Essex.

### Early Gastric Cancer. Proceedings of the Second BSG SK & F International Workshop 1981

Edited by P. B. COTTON. Pp. 83, illustrated. Smith Kline and French Laboratories, Welwyn Garden City, 1981. Free of charge.

This 83 page book documents current experience of early gastric cancer. This consists of lesions confined to the mucosa and mucosa/submucosa, of the stomach, regardless of the presence of lymph-node metastases. The epidemiology and pathogenesis of gastric cancer (including the nitrosamine hypothesis) are well covered and the histopathological classification of early gastric cancer is clearly described by Serck-Hanssen. There are good descriptions of the known pre-malignant lesions: patients with chronic gastritis, intestinal metaplasia of the stomach, pernicious anaemia, adenomatous gastric polyps, Menetrier's disease or a previous gastrectomy constitute high risk groups. However, most cases do not occur in these high risk groups. The majority of patients with early gastric cancer have symptoms, but only one case is diagnosed in every 400 dyspeptic patients submitted to endoscopy.

The Japanese experience of mass screening of asymptomatic populations is described by Kawai. Sixty per cent of gastric cancers so diagnosed were early gastric cancers and the 5 year survival of this group after gastrectomy is a staggering 90%. In Europe, however,

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## Special Issues

A few copies of the following recent outstanding special issues are still in print and can be obtained from the publishers:

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**Offprints.** These may be purchased if ordered on the form which will be sent to the senior author with the proofs.

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NUMBER 693

JULY 1983

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