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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.

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Ethnic differences in common diseases

Conference held at The Birmingham Medical Institute,
Harborne Road, Birmingham
on Friday, 19 November 1982

Edited by: DR D. G. BEEVERS

Books received

Annual Review of Medicine: Selected Topics in the Clinical Sciences, Vol. 34, 1983. Edited by W. P. CREGER, C. H. COGGINS and E. W. HANCOCK. Pp. 577, illustrated. Annual Reviews, Palo Alto, California, 1983. \$30.00.

Autonomic failure: a textbook of clinical disorders of the autonomic nervous system. Edited by SIR ROGER BANNISTER. Pp. xiv + 666, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Toronto, 1983. £45.00.

Beta Blockade in the 1980s: Focus on Atenolol. Proceedings of an International Symposium, Monte Carlo 7-10th June, 1982 Drugs, Supplement 2, Vol. 25, March 1983. Edited by J. I. S. ROBERTSON, N. M. KAPLAN, A. D. S. CALDWELL and T. M. SPEIGHT. Pp. ix + 346, illustrated. Adis Press, New York, Tokyo, Mexico, Sydney, Auckland, Hong Kong, 1983. Price not given.

The Health Care Manual: a Family Guide to Self-Care and Home Medicines. Edited by JOHN FRY and GORDON FRYERS with contributions from ERIC GAMBRILL, ALISTAIR MOULDS, GILLIAM STRUBE and KEN YOUNG. Pp. vii + 320. MTP Press, Lancaster, Boston, The Hague, 1983.

Hospice care. Principles and Practice. Edited by C. A. CORR and D. M. CORR. Pp. xix + 364, illustrated. Faber and Faber, London, 1983. £4.95 (paperback).

Modern Emergency Department Practice. Edited by DAVID K. BROOKS and ANTHONY J. HARROLD. Pp. xii + 431, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London, 1983. £50.00.

The Nature of General Family Practice. 583 Clinical Vignettes in Family Medicine. An Alternative Approach to Syllabus Development. Edited by W. E. FABB and J. R. MARSHALL. Pp. xx + 660. MTP Press, Lancaster, Boston, The Hague, 1983. £19.95.

Postgraduate Medicine. By I. J. T. DAVIES. 4th edn. Pp. x + 563, illustrated. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books), London, 1983. £17.00.

Sudden Death in Infancy. The 'cot death' syndrome. By BERNARD KNIGHT. Pp. 172, illustrated. Faber and Faber, London, 1983. £3.50 (paperback).

100 Short Cases for the MRCP. By K. GUPTA. Pp. xii + 106. Chapman and Hall, London, New York, 1983. £4.75.

Book reviews

An Atlas of Oxygen-cardiorespirograms in Newborn Infants

By RENATE HUCH, ALBERT HUCH and GÖSTA RÖOTH. Pp. 257, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1983. £25.00.

The non-invasive measurement of transcutaneous oxygen, heart rate and respiratory rate is now commonplace in neonatal intensive care units. Little notice has been taken of the patterns of change interrelating with each other. This atlas is more important as a background thesis of the normal variation than as a book that the neonatal clinician can immediately refer to in order to get practical advice. The combined experience of Renate and Albert Huch and Gösta Rooth are presented with the analyses of these parameters in 3000 term newborns in the first week of life. Only the occasional recording is from a baby of less than 3 kg in birthweight and only 3 out of the 3000 are in infants less than 2 kg. Therefore, although this book is scholarly in its presentation, it is of limited use in the neonatal setting where it is in general preterm infants or sick full-term infants that are monitored in this fashion. I would welcome a follow-up atlas from these authors on the variations that they see in the clinical setting.

N. MCINTOSH
St George's Hospital,
Medical School,
London SW17 0RE.

Babyhood

By PENELOPE LEACH. 2nd edn., revised and expanded. Pp. 579, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1983. £4.95.

Just my luck to read Ms Leach's book when my children have all become teenagers and I am well on in general practice. 'Babyhood' may be intended for 'parent experts', but will do just as well for doctors, nurses, and health visitors, or their student counterparts.

The research is formidable and whilst Ms Leach allows us to know

her own leanings, she acquaints us with the opinions of classical theoreticians such as Skinner and Chomsky in language development, in contrast to Kagan's newer ideas, or gives us more down-to-earth warnings as in Gairdner's 'The Fate of the Foreskin'. Nevertheless, she is not afraid to bring the book alive with anecdote, or a uniquely individual and most moving account of a child's day through it's mother's eyes, to prepare grandmother for a day with her grand-child.

Ms Leach almost counsels the reader to break vicious circles and allay guilts and fears in such minefields as toilet training, not sleeping, or refusal to eat 'properly', whilst accurately informing her on subjects such as food values to show how very nearly good enough children's anxiety-provoking food fads can be.

It is a long book at over 550 pages, sometimes hard reading. After all that, one is not being told what to do or what to think, but rather more just put in the picture. It must be valued by mothers—but ones with time to read, and for whom reading is easy. It could do with being required student reading too. I wish it had been around 15 years ago.

HILARY GRAHAM
1 Jacksons Lane,
London N6 5SR.

A Colour Atlas of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery

By CHARLES GRANT CLARK. Pp. 168, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1983.

Professor Clark is to be congratulated on the excellence of his Colour Atlas of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery. The photographs are of high quality as is their reproduction in print. The cardia and the oesophageal hiatus of the diaphragm are always difficult to photograph, however well they are surgically displayed. Nevertheless, the sections on vagotomy and hiatus hernia repair are

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