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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*.

EDITORIAL MATTERS

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SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Postgraduate Medical Journal is published monthly for the Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine by Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd. The subscription price for 1984 is £60.00 (U.K.), £72.00 (overseas), \$142.50 (U.S.A. & Canada) post free. Subscribers in the U.S.A. and Canada should send their orders to Lippincott/Harper, Journal Division, 2350 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740, U.S.A. The price of single issues is £6.00 (\$11.70), postage extra. If payments are made by bank transfer, all charges shall be at the remitter's expense. Copies of the journal are dispatched by air freight to New York for forwarding by surface mail throughout North and South America, and by air freight to Singapore for forwarding by surface mail to subscribers in India, Australasia and the Far East. U.S. Mailing Agent: Expeditors of the Printed Word Ltd, 527 Madison Ave, Suite 1217, New York, NY 10022. Second class postage paid at New York, NY. Postmaster: send address corrections to *Postgraduate Medical Journal*, c/o Expeditors of the Printed Word Ltd., 527 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022 (US mailing agent). Orders and business correspondence should be addressed to Blackwell Scientific Publications Ltd, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EL (Telephone Oxford 240201).

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**Recent trends in coronary mortality and their implications for the U.K.
Are we winning or losing?**

Conference organized by the Coronary Prevention Group
at the Postgraduate Centre, Central Middlesex Hospital, London NW10
on 30 June 1983

Edited by: DR K. P. BALL AND DR H. PURCELL

Books received

Atlas of Bronchitis. By K. MORGENROTH AND M. T. NEWHOUSE. Pp. 106, illustrated. Butterworth Scientific, London, Boston, Singapore, Sydney, Wellington, Durban, Toronto, 1983. £22.50.

Bone and Joint Disease in the Elderly. Edited by V. WRIGHT. Medicine in Old Age Series. Pp. 305, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1983. £20.00.

Case Histories in Psychiatry. By EAMONN FOTTRELL. Pp. 328. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1983. £6.95.

Control of Respiration. Edited by D. J. PALLOT. Pp. 329, illustrated. Croom Helm, London, Canberra, 1983. £19.95.

Disorders of Thrombin Formation. Edited by ROBERT W. COLMAN. Methods in Hematology Series, volume 7. Pp. xi + 161, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1983. £25.00.

Eleventh Annual Report. Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction. World Health Organization. Pp. 159, illustrated. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1982. Price not given.

From Woman to Woman. By LUCIENNE LANSON. Revised, updated and expanded edition. Pp. 442, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1983. £3.50.

An Introduction to Community Medicine. CHARLES DU V. FLOREY, PETER BURNEY, MICHAEL D'SOUZA, ELLIE SCRIVENS, PETER WEST. Pp. vi + 134, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1983. £3.95.

Hearing and Balance in the Elderly. Edited by RONALD HINCHCLIFFE. Medicine in Old Age Series. Pp. x + 521, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1983. £32.00.

The Physiology of Hemostasis. By DEREK OGSTON. Pp. 378, illustrated. Croom Helm, London, Canberra, 1983. £19.95.

Progress in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Volume 3. Edited by JOHN STUDD. Pp. 353, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1983. £15.00.

Understanding Back Pain. Patient Handbook 13. By R. W. PORTER. Pp. 66, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1983. £1.40.

Book reviews

Antibiotics for Surgical Infections

Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Series. By P. J. SANDERSON. Pp. vii + 262. Research Studies Press, A Division of John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore. £24.50.

Surgeons would welcome a comprehensive, concise and well-ordered textbook on available agents for prophylaxis and treatment of surgical infections. There has been an explosion of new antimicrobial agents available to surgeons during the past 10 years. Many surgeons are confused with the range of new agents and wish to receive clear guidelines as to whether newer agents have any advantage over well-tried compounds that have been in use for many years.

Dr Sanderson has provided an extensive review of antibiotics which are currently available for surgical infections. Unfortunately the book is not completely up to date and not all of the newer agents are mentioned. The author not only covers aspects of available antimicrobials but also provides extensive information on the microbiological reporting of bacterial isolates, their use in a wide range of surgical practice and information regarding the use of antimicrobials in special clinical situations. Apart from general surgery the following subjects are also considered: obstetrics and gynaecology, peripheral vascular and cardiac surgery, respiratory infection, burns, therapy in intensive care units, orthopaedic surgery and urology. In certain sections of the book the author also strays into aspects of aetiology, pathogenesis, and in some cases diagnosis as well. As a consequence, the book is longer than is absolutely necessary for its title and there are certain sections which I doubt are of great importance to surgeons, such as the aetiology of gastroenteritis, intestinal worms, superficial infection in abattoir workers and drug addicts. The section on antimicrobial prophylaxis is far too short and most general surgeons would wish a much more extensive review of this subject with clear guidelines as to which agents should be used, in what patients, and for how long. The use of typeset would

have been excusable if the text had been thoroughly up to date but there were few references of reported work after 1980.

There is a need for a concise book on the use of antibiotics in surgical practice. However, I suspect that most of the important information could be incorporated into a small textbook of not more than 80 pages with clear tables.

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Chest Medicine

Edited by R. B. GEORGE, R. W. LIGHT and R. A. MATTHAY. Pp. x + 657, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1983. £35.00.

This is a good book, if not a great book—but it is undoubtedly an expensive book, at least in Britain, where it must on financial grounds alone compete with other 'definitive' texts such as Crofton and Douglas, *Respiratory Diseases*, 3rd Edition (Blackwell Scientific Publications) and Emerson, *Thoracic Medicine 1981* (Butterworths).

It is written for medical, nursing, and respiratory therapy students, and will certainly provide them with a wealth of information directly relevant to today's practice of respiratory medicine. The three editors (with another 10 collaborators) are all actively engaged in practice, research and teaching in this discipline. Their high reputation as research workers led this reviewer to have very high expectations, which unfortunately were not always entirely fulfilled.

Thus the first third of the book, describing the anatomical and physiological basis of respiratory medicine, whilst fully competent, tends to be a rather uncritical statement of conventional views, often of 5 or 10 years standing, yet lack the critical assessment from the active practical clinician that these authors might have provided. Thus the concept of small airways disease, and the notion that its

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The principal author must ensure that any co-authors listed agree to submission of the typescript. Any written or illustrative material which has been or will be published elsewhere must be duly acknowledged and accompanied by the written consent of the authors and publishers concerned.

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References in the text. These should be made by giving the author's surname, with the year of publication in parentheses. When reference is made to a work by three authors all names should be given when cited for the first time, and thereafter only the first name, adding *et al.*, e.g. Smith *et al.* (1958). The '*et al.*' form should always be used for works by four or more authors. If several papers by the same author and from the same year are cited, a, b, c, etc., should be put after the year of publication, Smith *et al.* (1958a).

All references should be brought together at the end of the paper in alphabetical order giving (a) name(s) of all the author(s) "*et al.*" not acceptable here; (b) year of publication in parentheses; (c) title of paper in its original form; (d) title of journal in full, underlined; (e) volume number, underlined; number of first page of article. References to books and monographs should include (a) name(s) and initials of all author(s) or editor(s); year of publication in parentheses, (b) title, underlined; (c) edition; (d) page referred to; (e) publisher; (f) place. *Authors should ensure that the listed references correspond exactly to those in the text.* Authors are responsible for the accuracy of their references.

Standard usage. The *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* is used as a reference for all spelling and hyphenation. Verbs which contain the suffix -ize (-ise) and their derivatives should be spelt with the z. Statistics and measurements should always be given in figures, i.e. 10 min, 20 hr, 5 ml, except where the number begins the sentence. SI units should be used wherever possible.

Figures. In the text Arabic numbers, e.g. Fig. 3, should be used. They should be marked on the backs with the name(s) of the author(s) and the title of the paper. The top of each figure should be indicated with an arrow on the reverse side. Each figure must bear a reference corresponding to a similar number in the text. Photographs and photomicrographs should be unmounted glossy prints and should not be retouched. Line diagrams should be on separate sheets; they should be drawn with black Indian ink on white paper and should be twice the size of the final reproduction. The originals of line diagrams, prepared as described above, may be submitted in photographs of similar size. The legends of all figures should be typed together on a single sheet of paper headed 'Captions to Figures'.

Tables. These should be on separate sheets. The main heading should be in capitals with an arabic number, e.g. TABLE 2. Each table must have a caption.

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