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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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**Symposium in thoracic medicine
Maurice Davidson commemoration issue**

Edited by: Dr K. M. CITRON



Maurice Davidson, D.M., F.R.C.P.
1883-1967

Books received

Apartheid and Health. Part I. Report of an International Conference held at Brazzaville, People's Republic of the Congo, 16-20 November 1981. Part II. The Health Implications of Racial Discrimination and Social Inequality: an Analytical Report to the Conference. Pp. 258. World Health Organization, Geneva, 1983. Sw. fr. 29.00.

Basic Skills in Clinical Medicine: A Guide to Ward Procedures for Students and House Officers. By KENNETH C. CALMAN and CHRISTOPHER D. HANNING. 2nd edn. (1st edn. published as *Basic Skills for Surgical Housemen*). Pp. vi + 155, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne and New York, 1983. £4.95.

Essential Clinical Microbiology: an Introductory Text. By E. M. COOKE and G. L. GIBSON. Pp. viii + 176, illustrated. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1983. £6.95.

Information Resources Guide to Words and Phrases used in the Pharmaceutical Industry. Compiled and edited by Peter Hamilton. Pp. iv + 43. Gothard House Publications, Henley-on-Thames, 1983. £6.70.

Medical Diagnosis, from Student to Clinician. By JANET GALE and PHILIP MARSDEN. Pp. xii + 218. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York and Toronto, 1983. £17.50.

Modern Drug Treatment in Tuberculosis. By J. D. ROSS and N. W. HORNE. 6th edn. Pp. 123. The Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JE, 1983. £3.000 (plus 50p postage and packing) (plus £1.20 surface mail overseas).

Pearce's Medical and Nursing Dictionary and Encyclopaedia. By EVELYN PEARCE. 15th edn. Pp. 443. Faber, London, Boston, 1983. £6.95.

The Physician: A Professional under Stress. Edited by JOHN P. CALLAN. Pp. xiii + 397. Appleton-Century-Crofts, Connecticut, 1983. £24.25.

Primary Membership Video Series. A Course Designed to Help Candidates Prepare for the MRCP (Part 1) Examination. By JOHN DAVIES. 22 Video Tape Lectures + M.C.Q. book. Dr John Davies, Postgraduate Medical Teaching Services, 34 Ivere Drive, Barnet, Herts EN5 1AS, 1983. £1.350 (22 Cassettes + 10 M.C.Q. books) (exclusive of V.A.T., postage and packing).

Books reviews

The Basic Neurology of Speech and Language

By MICHAEL L. E. ESPIR and F. CLIFFORD ROSE. 3rd edn. Pp. ix + 213, illustrated. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Melbourne, Boston, 1983. £9.50.

The strength of this established textbook lies in the selection of basic neurology relevant to speech therapists. Emphasis is laid upon diseases involving the vocal tracts and it is not surprising that the outstanding chapter is that on dysarthria. The two eminent authors published the first edition of *The Basic Neurology of Speech and Language* in 1970 and made significant personal contributions to speech pathology in the 1960s. Since then their interests have diverged markedly and the wisdom of attempting a third edition without another author more deeply steeped in recent developments in aphasiology may be questioned. Speech and the comprehension and formulation of language are physiological acts. All too often they are described in anatomical terms without reference to the plasticity of the nervous system, the nature of the insult, therapy and prognosis. An insult to a particular part of the cortex or subcortex does not necessarily produce an identical clinical syndrome irrespective of the patient's age. The text varies in clarity with some unnecessarily convoluted sentences and the attempt to explain the acquired alexias without diagrams must be daunting for any student.

As with the earlier editions, the book is relevant to many disciplines including postgraduate students in paediatrics, psychiatry, psychology and linguistics who need to acquire a basis of neurology as applied to the fundamentals of speech pathology, but those concerned with teaching speech therapy will still find it necessary to advise their students to read American textbooks such as Benson (1979) and Segalowitz (1983) in order to understand aphasia and seek elsewhere for practical instruction in speech therapy and the technology of communication aids.

References

BENSON, D.F. (1979) *Aphasia, Alexia and Agraphia*. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh.

SEGALOWITZ, S.J. (1983) *Language Function and Brain Organization*. Academic Press, London.

E. M. R. CRITCHLEY
Preston Royal Infirmary,
Preston, Lancs.

Cardiovascular Disease. Integrated Clinical Science Series.

Edited by JOHN R. HAMPTON. Pp. xi + 276, illustrated. William Heinemann Medical Books, London, 1983. £7.95.

John Hampton and his friends, mostly from Nottingham, have done a good deed in producing this book. It is well written; the electrocardiograms have shape not morphology, thrombosis is nicely described as helpful or harmful solidification of the blood. The individual contributions have been 'integrated' to make a uniformly entertaining and instructive work.

The series aims to link the science and practice of medicine for students. Cardiovascular disease lends itself particularly well to this approach. For example, basic cellular processes are related to myocardial performance, and thence to the symptoms, signs and management of heart failure; similarly congenital heart disease is related to embryology. Not every chapter succeeds, the mandatory account of rheumatic heart disease would be better refashioned and retitled valve disease.

The teaching is generally correct—areas for heart murmurs are misleading, diagnostic stress testing and cardiac enzymes are overvalued, patients and not their arrhythmias require treatment. Some views are alarming: the character of the arterial pulse is

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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.

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