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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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## Books received

*Current Therapy in Infectious Disease, 1983-1984.* By EDWARD H. KASS and RICHARD PLATT. Current Therapy Series. Pp. xvi + 296 illustrated. B. C. Decker, Philadelphia, Toronto. C. V. Mosby, Saint Louis, Toronto, London, 1983. £35.20.

*Essentials of Human Embryology.* By S. M. BHATNAGAR, M. L. KOTHARI and LOPA A. MEHTA. 2nd edn. Pp. 244, illustrated. Orient Longman, Hyderabad (Distributed by Sangam Books, London). £4.95.

*Hepatocellular Carcinoma. A Series of Workshops on the Biology of Human Cancer. Report No. 17.* Edited by KUNIO OKUDA and IAN MACKAY. UICC Technical Report Series—Vol. 74. Pp. 204, International Union Against Cancer, Geneva (Distributed by Hans Huber, Bern, Switzerland), 1983. Sw.fr.44.00.

*An International Survey of Distributions of Histologic Types of Tumours of the Testis and Ovary.* Edited by Helge Stalsberg. UICC Technical Report Series—Vol. 75. Pp. x + 353, illustrated. International Union Against Cancer, Geneva (Distributed by Hans Huber, Bern, Switzerland). Sw.fr.48.00, \$24.00.

*Key Facts in Pulmonary Disease.* Edited by OM P. SHARMA and OSCAR J. BALCHUM. Pp. xv + 598, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London and Melbourne, 1983. £29.00.

*Low Back Pain and Industrial and Social Disablement. An International Symposium held in London on 7th and 8th October, 1982, Sponsored by the Colt Foundation, organised by the Back Pain Association.* Pp. 107, illustrated. Back Pain Association, Teddington, 1983. £6.50.

*New Drugs.* Articles published in the British Medical Journal. Pp. 215. British Medical Association, London, 1983. £6.00 (including postage), \$20.75 (including air mail postage).

*The Peripheral Arterial Chemoreceptors. Proceedings of the VIIth International Symposium held at the University of Leicester, September 1982.* Edited by DAVID J. PALLOT. Pp. 414, illustrated. Croom Helm, London and Canberra; Oxford University Press, New York, 1983. £27.00.

*Preparation for MRCP Part II.* By PAUL SIKLOS and STEPHEN OLCZAK. Pp. viii + 186, illustrated. MTP Press in association with Update Publications Boston, The Hague, Dordrecht, Lancaster, 1983. £9.95.

*Shock Trauma/Critical Care Manual: Initial Assessment and Management.* Edited by R. ADAMS COWLEY and C. MICHAEL DUNHAM. Pp. xv + 594, illustrated. University Park Press, Baltimore (Distributed by Edward Arnold, Maidenhead), 1982. £38.00.

## Book reviews

### Atlas of the Human Brain and Spinal Cord

By DYAL N. P. SINGH and F. B. COOKSON. Pp. 88, illustrated. Croom Helm, London and Canberra, 1983. £8.95 (Spiral binding).

This book is exactly what its title says it is. There are over 70 pages of pictures of the brain, brainstem and sections of the spinal cord. All specimens are macroscopic and where appropriate, Weigert-Pal staining has been used to distinguish grey and white matter. The photos are beautifully clear and well labelled without excessive detail. There is no 'narrative' and the atlas is useless without the corresponding specimens. However, in a dissecting room it could prove a boon to the students (and some of the demonstrators!). Unfortunately, the last three pages of pictures of a C.A.T. scan are almost useless and moreover, they have not even been labelled.

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### A Colour Atlas of Urology

By R. W. LLOYD-DAVIES, J. G. DOW and D. R. DAVIES. Pp. 287, illustrated. Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1983. £48.00.

This book contains an impressive and interesting collection of colour photographs and pathological specimens, endoscopic photographs of the bladder and line diagrams illustrating the principles of many urological diagnostic procedures. It has obviously been desirable to put these together and publish them and the result must be of value both to the student and teacher of urology. In addition, there is a comprehensive collection of prints of X-rays, which, though rather pocket-size, generally show what the caption purports. In some instances it might be desirable to have fewer, but larger plates, as for example in the illustrations of prostatic metastases in bone and the comparison with Paget's disease. The radiograph of pulmonary

metastases is back to front, while the account of the radiological findings in polycystic disease of the kidney, and the examples shown, could be improved.

There is no doubt that this is a most valuable and instructive collection and certainly one that will be sought by medical libraries and teaching departments. The next edition will be even better, possibly with an account of the interventional image-guided techniques including renal angioplasty.

J. P. HOPEWELL  
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London NW3.

### Handbook of Hospital Medicine

By P. J. MITCHELL, P. PLATT and C. WREN. Pp. viii + 182, illustrated. MTP Press Ltd., Boston, The Hague, Dordrecht, Lancaster, 1983. £4.75.

The strength and weakness of pocket or handbooks in general is that by their very nature they must be informative, succinct, telegraphic, tabulated, didactic and selective. Since space is at a premium it is more difficult to criticize the book for what has been left out. The rather over ambitious aim of *Handbook of Hospital Medicine* is to provide for medical students, housemen and registrars.

The book started life in South Africa and has been modified for U.K. experience and one of the three authors is a 'Front Line' doctor. The sections on cardiovascular and respiratory medicine have a practical feel about them. The reviewer tried to assess the book in various ways. First, by reading it from cover to cover. The views appeared sound and I would only quibble with the use of sodium thyroxine intravenously for myxoedema. In the U.K., sodium tri-iodothyronine is more readily available and quicker acting. Quinidine sulphate is also still used prophylactically against arrhythmias. I would also have liked alcohol to have been

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