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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

- Anaesthesia: Review 2.* Edited by LEON KAUFMAN. Pp. 228, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1983. £12.00.
- Annual Review of Microbiology.* Edited by L. NICHOLAS, ALBERT BALOWS and PAUL BAUMANN. Vol. 37. Pp. viii + 676, illustrated. Annual Reviews, Palo Alto, California, 1983. \$27.00 (U.S.A.), \$30.00 (elsewhere). Prices include postage and handling.
- Bailey and Bishop's Notable Names in Medicine and Surgery.* Revised by HAROLD ELLIS, 4th edn. Pp. xvi + 272, illustrated. H. K. Lewis, London, 1983. £15.00.
- A Clinical Approach to Progress in Infectious Diseases.* Edited by W. BRUMFITT and J. M. T. HAMILTON-MILLER. Pp. xii + 163, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1983. £12.50.
- Clinical Biochemistry of Steroid Hormones: Methods and Applications.* By J. K. GRANT and G. H. BEASTALL. Pp. 303, illustrated. Croom Helm, London, Canberra, 1983. £19.95.
- Clinics in Haematology. Vol. 12, no. 3, October 1983. Bone Marrow Transplantation.* Edited by DAVID G. NATHAN (Guest Editor). Pp. xii + 227, illustrated. W. B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, 1983. £11.75.
- Clinics in Immunology and Allergy. Vol. 3, no. 3, October 1983. Natural Mechanisms of Immunity.* edited by RONALD B. HERBERMAN. Pp. vii + 209, illustrated. W. B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, 1983. £11.75.
- Clinics in Oncology, Vol. 2, no. 3, November 1983. Transfusion Support Therapy.* Edited by CHARLES A. SCHIFFER. Pp. xi + 255, illustrated. W. B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, 1983. £11.75.

- Critical Care of the Obstetric Patient.* Edited by RICHARD L. BERKOWITZ. Pp. xiv + 561, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London and Melbourne, 1983. £45.00.
- Leukemia Ecology: Ecological Prophylaxis of Leukemia.* By JULIAN ALEKSANDROWICZ and ALEKSANDER B. SKOTNICKI. Pp. xv + 205, illustrated. National Center for Scientific, Technical and Economic Information, Foreign Scientific Publications Department, Warsaw, Poland (Distributed through the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia), 1982. \$19.00 (U.S.A.), \$38.00 (other countries).
- Poisoning.* By ROY GOULDING. Pocket Consultant series, Pp. 240. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Boston, Melbourne, 1983. £5.95.
- Recent Advances in Diabetes. No. 1.* Edited by MALCOLM NATTRASS and JULIO V. SANTIAGO. Pp. ix + 258, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne and New York, 1983. £19.50.
- Recent Advances in Rheumatology. No. 3.* Edited by W. CARSON DICK and J. M. H. MOLL. Pp. x + 239, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne and New York, 1983. £24.00.
- Reflections on the Universities and the National Health Service.* By SIR FRED DAINTON. The Rock Carling Fellowship, 1981. Pp. xvii + 165. The Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, London, 1983. £7.50.
- Smoking Control Strategies in Developing Countries. Report of W.H.O. Expert Committee.* World Health Organization Technical Report, Series 695. Pp. 92. World Health Organization, Geneva, 1983. Sw.fr.8.00.

Book reviews

Aids to Postgraduate Medicine

By J. L. BURTON. 4th edn. Pp. 232, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1983. £4.50.

This pocket-sized book is an established favourite with M.R.C.P. candidates and rightly so, since it presents a large volume of essential knowledge in a style that is easy to assimilate. There are omissions, of course, but these are as much a result of the size of the book as the author's intention to be brief. There is nothing in the book that is redundant, even the title will suggest a disease to any doctor short of diagnostic ideas.

I should not forget my brief which is to review critically and not wallow in praise. My chief complaint is with the opening section which discusses the M.R.C.P. examination. It is a direct copy from the 3rd edn. with the inclusion of the latest entrance requirements set by the Royal College. No account has been taken of the addition of Basic Sciences to Part I, and in Part II, I would think that any candidate seeing only three short cases would undoubtedly fail. The Royal College makes a point of the importance of history taking, not the opposite as Dr Burton suggests.

There are two additional chapters in the main part of the book: Venereology and Pyrexia and Hypothermia. The latter is outstanding for its brevity and the former, notable for one omission, viz. AIDS. I still find the chapter on Rheumatology confusing (no classification of arthropathies) and that on Renal Disease enlightening. One final moan, sarcoidosis seems to have disappeared from the book. There are fewer changes than I expected, but this reflects, I am sure, the good quality of the last edition. I would still strongly

recommend *Aids to Postgraduate Medicine* to all doctors as an *aide-mémoire*.

R. F. MORGAN
Barnet General Hospital,
Herts.

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.

In the preface to this atlas it is stated that the book attempts to 'improve our understanding' of the clinical, pathophysiological and pathological features of bronchitis. For someone new to the subject, the attractive illustrations dramatized by imaginative colouring and artistic licence will no doubt draw him to the useful information in the text. Scanning electron microscope photographs are tinted green, and in one three-dimensional drawing based on electron microscopy, the cilia can be seen apparently blowing away from the epithelial cells in acute bronchitis. Anything that makes people curious enough to read in this television age is acceptable, and the text is scientifically sound. However, someone who already knows something about bronchitis and wishes to improve his understanding at a postgraduate level will be disappointed by the brevity of the list of references at the end of the book, and by the absence of text references to them. Some key references in the subject are not mentioned anywhere. There are also some typographical errors that

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