

Books received

How to Live with Diabetes. By HENRY DOLGER and BERNARD SEEMAN. British edition revised and adapted by Colin McIntosh. Pp. 176. Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, New York, Victoria, Markham (Ontario), Auckland, 1984. £2.50.

Paediatric Neurology. Edited by EDWARD M. BRETT. Pp. x+613, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1983. £45.00.

Book reviews

Annual Review of Public Health. Vol. 4

Edited by LESTER BRESLOW, JONATHAN E. FIELDING. (Associate Editor) and LESTER B. LAVE (Associate Editor). Pp. 424, illustrated. Annual Reviews Inc., 4139 El Camino Way, Palo Alto, California 94306, U.S.A., 1983. \$27.00 (U.S.A.), \$30.00 (elsewhere). Prices include postage and handling.

The chapters in this book cover an immense range of subjects from the design of longitudinal studies through to biological monitoring by way of the care of the mentally ill, the involvement of children in their own health, and lessons to be learned from health care regulation. There are, in addition, chapters on aspects of the indoor and outdoor environment, the treatment of hypertension by non-pharmacologic (sic) methods and the control of schistosomiasis. Perhaps it should be added, that none of the two dozen or so authors is British although three work elsewhere in Europe. Thus, the book is very much directed towards public health care in North America which severely limits its interest to British readers.

The chapter by Lebowitz on the health effects of indoor pollutants was one at which I looked with particular interest since we are now seeing a substantial number of patients who are thought to be suffering from 'building sickness' which, in some cases, is thought to be related to exposure to low levels of formaldehyde released from insulating foam. It was a disappointing read, however, since the review is superficial and the author fobs his readers off by saying that 'the effects of indoor pollution on health obviously require further epidemiological studies'. This is not helpful to those who wish to have a little guidance now!

The last few chapters of the book are brought together to form a section entitled 'Some recent events in biological monitoring' and a curious collection it is. The subjects which are dealt with include monitoring for cadmium, mercury, pesticides, mutagens, and electrophilic compounds, respiratory assessment, the application of cytogenetic methods and the monitoring of DNA adducts for the detection of carcinogens. All eight chapters are far too short to be useful and in none is there any indication of how the methods which are described may best be used to monitor populations exposed to potentially toxic substances; there is nothing which will help the reader to interpret the results which might be obtained nor any indication of action levels.

The quality of the writing is patchy, as one has come to expect from a multi-authored tome, and I would be reluctant to persuade anyone that it was worth parting with £30 for.

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Bailey and Bishop's Notable Names in Medicine and Surgery

4th edn. Revised by Harold Ellis. Pp. xvi+272, illustrated. H. K. Lewis, London, 1983. £15.00.

Professor Ellis has provided a long overdue revision of this popular book, retaining the improved format of the 1959 edition with its useful footnotes, but updating references, substituting improved diagrams and illustrations, augmenting bibliographic details and arranging its contents alphabetically.

The changing character of clinical practice is reflected in the omission of Scott's dressing, Higginson's syringe, Potain's aspirator,

Southey's tubes and the expectant treatment recommended by Oschner and Sherren for late cases of perforated appendix. In their place, we are given intimate and informative vignettes of Billroth, the innovative genius; Cushing, the artist and perfectionist; Kocher, the serene inventor; Lane, the meticulous technician and Lister, pioneer of modern surgery.

In a work of this size, selection of appropriate subjects is obviously a problem and the 4th edition continues to display the surgical bias of its editors to the exclusion of such medical conditions as brucellosis, Korsakow's syndrome, Parkinson's disease, Fallot's tetrad, Stokes-Adams attacks and Burkitt's lymphoma. Von Willebrand's disease has a claim to be included and Trousseau has signs relating both to vascular and neurological disorders, while Crohn's disease and Buerger's disease are of equal interest to physicians and surgeons. With its information now presented in more attractive form, this is such a useful book that its publishers might profitably consider extending its scope.

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Clinical Radiology.

4th edn. By G. SIMON AND A. J. A. WIGHTMAN. Pp. 311, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, 1983. £27.50.

The previous editions of this book were known as *X-ray Diagnosis for Clinical Students* and many of us thereby first became stimulated in radiodiagnosis by the pen of the late George Simon. The renamed current edition has been expanded with the intention of not only providing basic instruction for undergraduates but also to help preparation for the higher qualifications in medicine and surgery.

Much new material has been included, especially concerning the new modalities of investigation, such as ultrasound and computed tomography. The book is well illustrated. Common and important diseases and differential diagnoses are discussed. Emphasis is placed upon choosing the correct order of investigation in relation to a given problem.

In a recent review of undergraduate radiology books, the Editor of *Clinical Radiology* did not consider this volume. It was a pity as it remains a very sound introduction, although as judged by his 'price per page' rather more expensive than some of its competitors. Medical schools do however have libraries. For postgraduates the book in its expanded form will provide a sound grounding for clinical practice as well as the higher exams.

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Electrodiagnosis in Diseases of Nerve and Muscle: Principles and Practice

By JUN KIMURA. Pp. xx+672, illustrated. F. A. Davis, Philadelphia, 1983. \$81.25.

This must be the most comprehensive work on electromyography and nerve conduction studies yet published. Running to 672 pages, printed on very high quality paper, it is a substantial volume both in weight and contents. The central part of the book covers in detail the