

## 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.

H. A. WALDRON,  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine,  
London WC1.

### 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.

JAMES WATT,  
Royal Society of Medicine,  
London W1M 8AE.

### 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.

D. G. SHAW,  
University College Hospital,  
London WC1E 6AU.

### 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

techniques used, normal variables such as age and temperature, and clinical application. The chapter on assessment of individual nerves which are commonly tested is well illustrated with photographs, line drawings and sample wave forms. There then follow chapters on muscle sampling, with full descriptions and illustrations of denervation changes, and various muscle diseases. Single-fibre EMG is well covered but there is no mention of macro-EMG. Techniques for sampling of non-limb muscles are also covered but are likely to be of use only to the specialist neurophysiologist. A chapter on the many varieties of myopathy provides a brief but useful clinical survey. The F wave and H reflex are included as expected in a work on EMG diagnosis, but the inclusion of the blink reflex and somatosensory evoked potentials is an unusual bonus. Unfortunately, the latter is somewhat skimmed and the illustrations are not of the standard in other chapters. Evoked potentials are now becoming a major part of the neurophysiologist's work and often complementary to EMG studies, but the field is now so large that a separate volume is really needed. Alternatively, the chapter on anatomy, physiology and basic electronics, amounting to over 50 pages but presenting information readily available elsewhere, might profitably be replaced by extension of the evoked potential section.

The standard of production is high with excellent print quality, a refreshingly small number of printer's errors and a hard-back binding which is robust. The transatlantic origin is little evident, although reflected in some aspects. However, the sections on instrumentation standards and electrical safety refer exclusively to U.S.A. standards and European readers will have to obtain and substitute the relevant IEC standards.

This is a book that can be recommended to those training in clinical neurophysiology or undertaking electrodiagnostic tests in relation to neurology or rheumatology. It is a practical manual which could find a place for reference in any EMG laboratory. Of particular value are the numerous references given in the text and listed at the end of each chapter.

S. G. BAYLISS,  
Farnham Road Hospital,  
Guildford,  
Surrey GU2 5LX.

**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, organized by the Back Pain Association**

Pp. 107, illustrated. Back Pain Association, Teddington, 1983. £6.50.

This unusual and interesting book was published exactly 1 year (not too bad, I suppose) after the Symposium. Its slim foolscap paperback format is unusual but easy to handle. Its interest lies in the broad spread of 'expertise' of the Back Pain Association and the Symposium, ranging from basic sciences through social, medical and paramedical to unorthodox and non-medical approaches to back pain, in 17 short chapters. Each represents a neat summary of current thoughts in its field. The Symposium was intended to be 'practical and related to the needs of industry', although the anatomy of spinal innervation (Professor Wyke) and biochemistry of discs (Dr Muir) may be outside that brief. Biomechanics (Professor Schultz) looked complicated but led into discussion of spinal stresses when moving boxes on a conveyor, and the chapters on workloads (Dr Snook) and occupational hazards (Drs Aaras, Westgaard and Andersson) were practical and well illustrated. I found the section on treatment the most illuminating, and particularly enjoyed Mr Dove's chapter on osteopathy which tried to bridge the communication gap with orthodox medicine. Professor Jayson's chapter on rheumatology was sound and predictable. I liked his reply to a question on why muscle strengthening exercises might relieve back pain, which was in essence that they do not. Chapters on surgery by Mr Nelson and Professor Hitchcock were rightly imbued with a degree of conservatism. Mr Nelson writes of surgery for spinal instability that 'success rate varies from surgeon to surgeon' and Professor Hitchcock sensibly decries repeated laminectomies. As with many

published symposia, the unresisted attempt to reproduce all the discussion leads to irritating repetition of 'thank you very much' and other superfluous comments, but this does not detract from an excellent and refreshing collection of a spectrum of views on back pain.

M. F. GRAYSON,  
North Middlesex Hospital,  
London N18 1QX.

**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.

The term 'rheumatology' no longer adequately encompasses the variety of academic and clinical practice that occupies 'rheumatologists' and this collection of review essays reflects this. Accounts of monoclonal antibodies and the major histocompatibility system are intelligible genuflections to the altar of molecular biology. The chapter on muscle diseases is excellent and covers the metabolic myopathies that may present to the 'rheumatologist' with vague locomotor symptoms. The time approaches when the rheumatologist with his special expertise in handling immunoregulatory drugs, objective locomotor measurement and experience of chronic disablement must annex muscle diseases. I am unable to decide which of two essays should win the rosette for best contribution. Professor Vernon-Roberts reminds us how feeble has been the histopathological contribution to the study of articular diseases hitherto, but implies that good immunochemistry and histochemistry of rheumatoid synovium, pannus and bone are imminent. Bentley and Dowd's review of rheumatoid orthopaedic surgery is well illustrated and describes many new arthroplasty procedures. The rheumatologist, however, whose patients queue wearily for any surgical intervention will be allowed a wry smile, and I would have welcomed a discussion of the mechanisms of prosthetic loosening. Rather than a visit to 'Third World Rheumatology' and the viral polyarthritis, chikungunya, I would have preferred the epidemiological detective story of spirochaetal Lyme disease which has been solved so recently in the New (Second) World. The essay, 'Lessons to be learnt from animal models . . . ' taught none!

ADRIAN CRISP,  
Addenbrooke's Hospital,  
Cambridge CB2 2QQ.

**Virus Diseases and the Skin**

By T. W. E. ROBINSON and R. B. HEATH. Pp. 194, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York. 1983. £15.00.

A book on virus diseases and the skin is one that is long overdue and is to be welcomed by clinicians. The two authors, one a dermatologist and the other a virologist, have produced a book that covers the subject well and is both easy to read and understand.

There are however a few criticisms. It is inevitable that several aspects of treatment have already become dated. Acyclovir is not just a promising powerful antiviral drug currently being evaluated, but is a compound that is widely used and most effective in the treatment of herpes simplex infections. Currently, there is much interest in retroviruses and the part they play in the induction of tumours. No mention is made of the part that these viruses are involved in the development of T cell lymphomas including mycosis fungoides. The references are adequate but are rather dated and several important and relatively recent ones are missing. The photographs which are all black and white are reproduced poorly and they would be much better in colour, though no doubt this would make the book more expensive. The line diagrams in the first chapter are excellent and enjoyed reading this part of the book on the nature of viruses.

The authors have produced a good book that is not expensive, and which, in my opinion should be in every dermatological library.

S. S. BLEEHEN,  
Royal Hallamshire Hospital,  
Sheffield S1D 2JF.