Books received

The BTM Programme (Body, Tone, Maintenance). By DONALD MCLAREN. Pp. 127, illustrated. Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, 1984. £1.50.

Case Studies in Paediatrics. By DAVID J. FIELD and JOHN STROOBANT. Pages unnumbered (Pp. iii + 84). Pitman Books, London, 1984. £5.95.

The Incomplete Houseman. A Guide for Medical Students and First-year Doctors. By M. J. ATKINS. Pp. 55. H. K. Lewis, London, 1983. £3.00.

Progress in Migraine Research. Vol. 2. Edited by F. CLIFFORD ROSE. Pp. xx + 292, illustrated. Pitman, London, 1984. £35.00.

Recent Advances in Paediatrics. Vol. 7. Edited by ROY MEADOW. Pp. ix + 234, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1984. £18.00.

Vindictio. A Defence of the Experimental Method. By RICHARD LOWER. Facsimile edition, limited to 250 numbered and signed copies edited by Kenneth Dewhurst. Pp. xxxiv + 314. Sandford Publications, Oxford, 1983. £25.00.

Book reviews

Anaesthesia: Review 2

Edited by LEON KAUFMAN. Pp. 228, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh. 1983. £12.00.

This is a book of just over 200 pages containing 15 chapters reviewing recent work in areas of interest to anaesthetists. Most chapters are quite short and easily readable in a few minutes. Topics covered include: advances in medicine relevant to anaesthetists; pulmonary complications following general anaesthesia; mechanisms of general anaesthesia; mechanisms of local anaesthesia; principles of use of extradural and intrathecal narcotics; recent advances in paediatric anaesthesia and intensive care; and non-invasive monitoring in anaesthesia.

The book includes a good deal of theoretical detail and this will particularly recommend it to candidates for the Primary and Final Fellowship examinations and to those consultants who teach them.

Criticisms are that I find the inclusion in mid-sentence of names of authors of original articles and their year of publication disruptive. I much prefer a small numeral as a mark of a reference. Also I think that some of the chapters would benefit from the inclusion of occasional diagrams or illustrations. There are only three paragraphs on anaesthesia for laser surgery and these are found in the chapter on 'Recent advances in paediatric anaesthesia and intensive care' and apply to ENT work. Laser surgery is an important new topic and requires much more detailed treatment. A general review of lasers available for surgery, with a more detailed review of methods of anaesthesia for ENT laser surgery, should be included in a future edition.

In summary this book is readable, full of useful up-to-date information and is reasonably priced. It is recommended reading for all anaesthetists but especially for candidates for the F.F.A.R.C.S. examinations.

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synthetic peptide vaccines, tumour immunology, immunity to influenza and the IgA proteases of pathogenic bacteria.

The chapter on malaria reviews the antigens present in the various stages of the plasmodium life cycle, the nature and effectiveness of the immune response to the parasite and the various strategies now being followed for vaccine production.

Non-A, non-B hepatitis is currently a diagnosis of exclusion: no specific agent has been incriminated. The short chapter on this topic considers the evidence for multiple viruses and examines the ultrastructural and antigenic evidence of NANB infection together with the practical problem of virus inactivation and the prevention of transmission.

The authors of the chapter on immunity to influenza concentrate on immunity rather than immunology, taking an historical and epidemiological approach. However, those wishing a more basic treatment of antimicrobial immunity should be satisfied with the chapter on synthetic peptide immunogens. This covers both viruses and bacterial vaccines but concentrates on the basic mechanisms of peptide immunogenicity and how these can be manipulated.

I was surprised to find a chapter on tumour immunology in the volume. It is a complex subject and this review would probably be too simple for the specialist immunologist. It is, however, an excellent survey of the field for the microbiologist with a reasonable knowledge of immunology.

The chapter that I found most useful was that on IgA proteases: enzymes produced by a number of mucosal pathogens that split IgA and may help in establishing the organism on the epithelial surface.

The volume is well produced and the individual contributions all have an extensive up-to-date bibliography. I would prefer to see titles included with references, but this would add considerably to the length of the book. At \$30 it is excellent value.

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Annual Review of Microbiology. Vol. 37, 1983

Edited by L. NICHOLAS, ALBERT BALOWS and PAUL BAUMANN. Pp. viii + 676, illustrated. Annual Reviews, Palo Alto, California, 1983. \$27.00 (U.S.A.), \$30.00 (elsewhere). Prices include postage and handling.

This series covers all aspects of microbiology and any single volume will only contain a proportion of material that is of interest to the medical microbiologist or clinician. Of the 25 topics in Volume 37, 7 are relevant to medicine. They are the immunology of malaria, the cell walls of gram-positive bacteria, non-A non-B hepatitis viruses,

Aspects of Care in Labour. Current Reviews in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

J. M. BEAZLEY and M. O. LOBB. Pp. 142, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1983. £9.00.

I enjoyed this book, finding it easy to read with many interesting and informative sections. The authors have taken the trouble to reference the book extensively and the bibliography is up to date. The book was written by two obstetricians and represents one view of the active management of labour. It is very much geared to active

obstetrics with graphical recording of the progress of labour and action lines to assist the clinician when the graph strays from the predetermined limits.

The section on the role of the cervix in labour is of specific interest to the authors and is one of the most informative sections of the book. The treatment of premature labour and operative obstetrics is well covered with many of the controversial aspects discussed in detail.

The authors have taken considerable care to deal with the controversial aspects of labour and to encourage readers to form their own opinions as this volume is intended for postgraduate readership.

The major omission of the book is maternal attitudes to care in labour. The authors make fleeting reference to some of the recent controversies about birth positions and mobility in labour. Consumer studies are alluded to but not really covered in detail.

In conclusion, however, I would recommend this as a good book; easy to read and one which will bring the postgraduate readership up to date with many of the controversies in obstetrics.

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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, 1983. £11.75.

The title of this book seems chosen to mystify. What, after all, are *unnatural* mechanisms of immunity? Immunologists, however, will know the editor's authority on the subject of natural killer (NK) cells. These are one of several mechanisms of 'natural immunity', defined by Dr Herberman as appearing 'spontaneously in most if not all individuals', not being 'dependent on known environmental stimuli', and 'showing 'considerable apparent specificity'. The natural immune system could be taken to include complement, interferon, NK cells and phagocytic cells, all of which can act independently of acquired T and B cell immunity to destroy or inhibit the growth of micro-organisms and cells.

Some of these mechanisms are succinctly and readably dealt with here. There are good chapters on the antibody-independent role of complement and the anti-microbial action of macrophages. Natural killer cells are given pride of place. These interesting lymphoid cells, distinguishable from T and B lymphocytes and monocytes, have lytic activity against some tumour, virus-transformed, and normal proliferating cells. Their biological role is uncertain, although attention has focussed on them as potential mediators of tumour surveillance. Diseases such as the X-linked lymphoproliferative syndrome and immunosuppression-associated lymphomas begin to suggest their importance in man, at least in preventing uncontrolled lymphoproliferation. Other chapters seem less relevant to the book's purported theme. There are three on antibodies to tumours and oncogenic viruses. A summary of gastrointestinal protective mechanisms, though admirable, relates mostly to acquired immunity and the physiology of IgA induction and secretion.

There are good things here, for clinicians and immunopathologists; but there remains an unfilled place for a book drawing together what is known of mechanisms of natural immunity, which are active in the absence of acquired immunity (and probably have a longer evolutionary history), and which are of certain importance in defence against infection, in clearance of damaged tissue, and possibly in surveillance against neoplasia.

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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, 1983. £11.75.

This edition of Clinics in Oncology reviews the transfusion support treatment of intensively treated cancer patients. It deals with the problems of prolonged aplasia which are mainly encountered in patients undergoing remission, induction for acute leukaemia, or those being treated by autologous or allogeneic bone marrow transplantation. There are critical reviews of the use of platelets and granulocyte transfusion, an interesting review of antibiotic therapy and of coagulation abnormalities in cancer. Leucopheresis and cytophoresis are also the subject of separate chapters.

There is therefore much which will be of interest to the haematologist and oncologist. The chapters tend to be over-referenced: that on coagulation abnormalities is 30 pages long with 17 pages of references which makes the text exceedingly difficult to read. There is much sound advice however. I found the chapter on platelet transfusion in the alloimmunized patient very helpful, and those on granulocyte transfusion and antibiotic therapy to be well balanced and practical. I recommend this volume to all those involved in the intensive care of cancer patients and those who have to provide the investigations and support services.

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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. £3.00 (plus 50p postage and packing) (plus £1.20 surface mail overseas).

This book provides a modern authoritative and simple account of the chemotherapy of tuberculosis, a subject which has become increasingly complex as new drug regimens have been developed and the search for shorter and better chemotherapy regimens continues. There are now many programmes to suit the widely differing needs of both individual patients and of communities differing widely in economic, social and geographical factors. The authors cover this complex area with admirable clarity and brevity. The chemotherapy of many forms of tuberculosis including disease due to acquired drug resistance, the use of corticosteroids and drugs for the prophylaxis of tuberculosis are admirably reviewed by these wide and experienced clinicians.

The book provides much more than a guide to chemotherapy. In addition, there are excellent chapters on tuberculin testing, BCG vaccination and the control of tuberculosis. The slim volume will prove invaluable to anyone treating tuberculosis in both technically advanced and developing countries and will be helpful also to those concerned with tuberculosis prevention and control. It has the added advantage of being concise and cheap.

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Palliative Care: The Management of Far-Advanced Illness

Edited by DEREK DOYLE. Pp. vii + 536, illustrated. Croom Helm, London, 1984. £25.00.

There are now numerous books on terminal care. Most limit themselves to cancer. This book is exceptional, though not unique, in describing the care of patients with a wide variety of fatal conditions. It also extends the definition of terminal care to include those months, and sometimes years, when patients can be helped to live with dignity despite their disease.