Book Reviews

Bailey and Love's Short Practice of Surgery, Nineteenth edition, revised by A.J. Harding Rains and H. David Ritchie, Pp.x + 1301, illustrated, H.K. Lewis, London 1984. £28.00.

What a pleasure to review the latest 'Bailey and Love'! It was akin to meeting a rejuvenated colleague and friend. The book is now in its 19th edition (since 1932) and has lost none of its appeal. It covers all the main branches of surgery and in most instances to a level of detail sufficient for F.R.C.S. candidates, although operative descriptions are still patchy in parts. Modern technology is adequately represented, e.g. ultrasound, CT scanning and the full range of endoscopy, particularly ERCP, is well illustrated. Recent improvements in our understanding of physiological measurements, for example migrating myoelectrical complexes in gastro-duodenal motility, are also included.

The illustrations are, as has always been the case, of a very high standard and many new ones have been added. The text is certainly suitable for those undergraduates who may wish to peruse a fuller text than would normally be expected for the final examination in surgery. The chapters relating to biliary, pancreatic and liver disease would be particularly helpful in this regard. Traditionally fellowship candidates have found this a most useful textbook for obtaining an overall appreciation of the many branches of surgical practice. This is particularly so for the specialist chapters such as faciomaxillary surgery and neurosurgery. Post-fellowship surgeons-in-training and consultants will undoubtedly enjoy 'dipping' into it from time-to-time but in many instances more specialized texts will be required when the need arises.

The authors are to be congratulated on maintaining the very high standards that one has come to expect from this 'traditional' text book. Considering the size of the book (1300 pages) and the extensive number of illustrations (over 1200) its cost at £28 represents excellent value. It will continue, I am sure, to retain its position as a prestigious, popular and informative surgical textbook.

I. Taylor,
*University Surgical Unit,
University of Southampton.*

Care of the Dying: a Clinical Handbook, Nigel C.H. Stott and Ilora G. Finlay, Pp.83, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1984. £2.95.

This is an appropriate, well-timed and practical book for every doctor's pocket. The summary of contents allows for easy access and gives immediate insight for dealing with the patient's symptoms. The problems of terminal care are presented in a compact, precise manner and the methods of procedures which follow are succinct and self-explanatory. The diagrams and tables are informative, easy to grasp, and lend a touch of variety to the style of the presentation.

The authors have given of themselves, showing their expertise together with immense sympathy, empathy and compassion for both the patients and their carers. Particularly outstanding are the opening chapters which convey admirably the holistic approach so crucial in meeting the needs of the dying patient and his family.

The section on symptom control is a *must* since the patient's viewpoint, subsequent assessment, choice of analgesia, drugs to avoid and the necessity for 24 hour pain control are all so clearly set out leaving no room for confusion.

The information covering grief, religious differences and the practicalities involved when death occurs, is most welcome as these subjects have been somewhat neglected in the past.

On the whole the book provides a sound basis for permitting doctor, nurse and family to grasp the basic knowledge and apply its principles in coping with the various problems which beset the terminally ill. It is excellent teaching material and should play an important part in every medical and nursing syllabus.

Pearl M. Dorsaion,
*MacMillan Sister, Whittington Hospital,
London N.19.*

Coordinated Diagnostic Imaging, edited by Joseph F. Simeone, Clinics in Diagnostic Ultrasound. Vol. 14, Pp.xx + 345, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1984. £36.00.

Some British readers may be unfamiliar with the term Imaging Algorithm. It is used extensively in this