Cardiology Revision. Case Histories, MCQs and Data Interpretation. Alistair Mackay. Pp.256. illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh. London. Melbourne, New York. 1984. £7.95.

I was told as a student by one of my illustrious teachers that for those who need it, the M.R.C.P. examination 'is an exam that everyone should take once but only once'. I have no doubt that this is a good maxim to try to live up to. Probably the best way to do this successfully for part I and the written section of part II is to be adept in the types of questions set.

This is a new book which contains questions for both parts of the examination. It should be used in conjunction with a good cardiac textbook. The electrocardiographs, radiographs and the three echocardiographs are quite clearly reproduced, the type face easy on the eye and the book is adequately bound. The questions embrace common and classical topics and the answers are terse and generally dogmatic but this is inevitable in books of this kind and not altogether a bad thing. I must confess that I did not score 100%. Even though I did not agree with all the answers, the questions were generally fair and I enjoyed working through them.

Although there are already several books available for M.R.C.P. candidates, few are devoted to cardiology. I think this is a useful addition and I would recommend it to all those aspiring to the 'Membership'.

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Computers in Radiology, George B. Greenfield and Lincoln B. Hubbard. Pp.xi + 183, Illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1984. £25.00.

The aware radiologist recognises three areas in which computers are, or will be, important within his department and in relations with his patients and colleagues: 1. Image production and manipulation. (Here already with ultrasound and CT and promising in conventional radiography.) 2. The 'airline' functions of reservations and ticketing for individual examinations. 3. The ultimate of filmless reporting and instant multi-point access within the hospital to images and reports. The initial impression of *Computers in Radiology* (from the title and the contents page) was very promising and the reviewer had that warm, smug feeling that his search for a volume dealing in depth with the above three topics was over.

The first three chapters deal with the history, 'anatomy and physiology' of the computer. These occupy fifty-three pages and are written in a long-winded and 'Micky Mouse' style. Better and more concise accounts are available elsewhere.

Then comes the meat of the book: four chapters on radiology. The first of these, 'Digital Imaging Processing', is excellent, being a clear and relevant discussion of the way pictures are created from numbers and subsequently improved by computer-based techniques such as smoothing, edge enhancement and re-masking.

The next two chapters on digital radiography and CT are sound, if basic, descriptions of these imaging modalities and their technical limitations. The last of this group of four chapters is yet another explanation of nuclear magnetic resonance imaging and is by no means the best available.

At this stage of the book this reviewer had learned little. This is rather surprising as he is in no sense a computer buff, and must be one of the few radiologists who does not even possess a personal micro! Nonetheless there were still fifty-three pages remaining at the beginning of the last chapter entitled 'The Computerised Radiology Department'. This is really a topic of very great excitement with the following prospects: a filmless X-ray department, the images stored on magnetic discs, readily accessible unlike the traditional film envelope which seems to have legs, if not wings, of its own, the radiologist sitting in front of a bank of TV screens calling up images and making vital decisions like the airport traffic controller; clinicians on the ward or in their out-patients clinics simply dialling up the X-rays and reports on their screens. Sadly, this discussion ended after five pages and the final chapter itself after another three.

With the 'book' finished, what could occupy the