recent references to it would have been appreciated and highly relevant.

This book is obviously aimed at radiotherapists and chemotherapists who deal with gynaecologic cancer and therefore this should have been mentioned in the title. It would be difficult to recommend it to general gynaecology postgraduates who would find its contents much too restrictive for their study. However, it does have a place in the libraries of radiotherapy and chemotherapy units.

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Introduction to Dialysis, edited by Martin G. Cogan and Marvin R. Garovoy, Pp. xii + 303, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1985. £38.00.

This multi-author volume has been planned to 'acquaint those charged with the care of renal failure patients to principles of sound dialytic therapy' but, unfortunately, this aim is not uniformly achieved. I have found a surprising lack of consistency in the way subjects have been treated throughout the text, some are with respect to the detail of the topic while others are of a purely editorial nature. As an example, some 15 pages are devoted to heparinisation schedules whereas the composition of the dialysis fluid is dealt with rather haphazardly throughout the text. From an editorial point of view I find that in one sentence 'pruritus' appears, which in the following sentence is spelt 'pruritis' (p. 251). Similarly on p. 107, the dialysate calcium concentration is expressed in mEq/l while in the same paragraph plasma values are expressed as mg/dl.

A number of subjects are well described, the chapter on vascular access being particularly notable especially with respect to the line drawings. Generally throughout the text the illustrations are most useful and I would draw specific attention to the many excellent tables. There are, however, some surprising omissions, notably the lack of any discussion on the different membranes currently available and the failure to describe haemofiltration. The editors correctly draw attention to the fact that space constraints have limited the topics discussed but these two subjects are particularly important with respect to the physician's aim to produce a symptom free treatment.

The majority of subjects are discussed with reference to up-to-date views and opinions while some take no account of recent literature, e.g. there is no mention of the role of ethylene oxide hypersensitivity in first use reaction. The management of patients is also variably discussed, there is, for instance, no indication as to which patients should be given desferrioxamine for aluminium toxicity and no mention of dose or route of administration. On the other hand the management of anaemia is clearly and most helpfully described.

At the end of each chapter there is a variable number of references. Unfortunately the references are not indicated in the text by number or author and therefore one has to search through the reference subject titles to find the one which may refer to the subject into which you wish to enquire further. It is only the references relating to drug dialysis reference data

that have been adequately indexed. Generally the references give a good entry to the literature but it is a pity that eight of the fourteen references in Chapter 1 are to the same book, providing the concept that this chapter is a synopsis of another volume; surely it would have been better to have included books as 'suggested further reading'.

I approached this book with interest and hope, only to be disappointed. It contains much useful information and will clearly be of value with respect to many aspects of dialysis. However, its lack of consistency means that some subjects are dealt with in a detailed manner while others receive only scant attention. If one is prepared to accept this limitation it will be a useful addition to a Renal Unit library.

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Leukemias and Lymphomas, edited by Peter H. Wiernik. Contemporary Issues in Clinical Oncology, Volume 4. Pp. xi + 287, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1985. £36.00.

This book is one of a series of volumes presenting an account of treatment and basic research on various cancers. The latest volume does this well, concentrating on the treatment of acute leukaemia and lymphoma in children and adults, cytogenetics, immunology and blood product support. The chronic leukaemias are also discussed. The text is sufficiently comprehensive and up-to-date to give a feel for the progress and excitement in this area. The chapters are well-referenced and include references as up to date as a year before publication of the book. This is quite an achievement in a multi-author publication. It was also a pleasant change to find a book with a largely American authorship which quotes the best of British and European clinical and laboratory research. This book is recommended for all those who have a specialist interest in malignant haematology or medical oncology.

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Management of the Motor Disorders of Children with Cerebral Palsy, edited by David Scrutton. Clinics in Developmental Medicine. No. 90. Pp. x + 101, illustrated. Spastics International Medical Publications, Oxford (Blackwell Scientific Publications), Philadelphia (J.B. Lippincott). 1984, £8.00.

This book provides the reader with six different views on the management of children with cerebral palsy, including some well known names such as Bobath and Vojta. Parental involvement is especially emphasised in two chapters, while two other authors give their experience based on therapy in institutions. The importance of sensory integrative therapy is clearly outlined by Rosemary White and the last chapter provides the reader with a neurological background. Little attention is given to the role of the speech therapist.

Although the methods of treatment vary, the authors seem

agreed on the importance of early treatment. The reader has to make up his mind which method of treatment will appeal to him/her and as there is an enormous diversity between children with this condition it is difficult to ascertain the advantage of one form of treatment over another.

The book is interesting and provides an insight into the possibilities of treatment for these children.

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Manual of Hematology, Claude Sultan, Michèle Gouault-Heilmann and Michèle Imbert. Pp. xii + 380, illustrated. John Wiley, New York, Chichester, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1985. £28.85.

In the preface, Dr Robert Pierre, who translated the book from the original French, states 'that the book is designed to provide a concise and clear overview of haematology emphasizing the pathophysiology of haematological disorders and aimed at the medical student and resident'. I believe it achieves these aims.

The book is divided into six sections, each is sub-divided similarly by short, rather terse notes on each subject. The style does not lend itself to discussion of debatable issues but presents on the whole what is the currently prevalent opinion. The accompanying line diagrams and tables are excellent. There are however no references to guide the inquisitive reader, which I think is a pity. The first two sections are on the physiology and pathology of general haematology dealing with all the main malignant and non-malignant conditions including the lymphomas. The next two sections are on the physiology and pathology of haemostasis. Why haemostasis is separated in this way from all the other fascinating subsections of haematology, I fail to understand, as only immuno-haematology, the subject of section 5, is so honoured.

Following this section is a series of brief appendices summarising the main morphological abnormalities in the blood and bone marrow. Clearly, without figures their value is limited but the descriptions are good. Section 6 will undoubtedly prove the most popular with students as it contains a series of true and false questions and case histories with questions. Ideal practice for the exams and, for the teachers the answers are provided!

In summary, a useful volume but at £28.85 represents poor value for money to the impecunious student or resident.

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Mathematical Methods in Medicine. Part I: Statistical and Analytical Techniques, edited by D. Ingram and R.F. Bloch. Handbook of Applicable Mathematics Series. Guidebook 3. P. xvii + 543, illustrated. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore. 1984. £29.95.

This review is of a single volume in a 12 volume work called the *Handbook of Applicable Mathematics*. The editors intend this and a companion volume as 'stepping stones' between the six core mathematical volumes and the study of medicine. The book is a collection of chapters by various authors. Almost half the book is on statistical methods, with two chapters on methods used in clinical and laboratory research by S. Evans and J.E.H. Shaw, a good chapter on the analysis of clinical decision-making by A. Skene, and a considerably weaker chapter on routine laboratory methods by G.S. Challoner. This part of the book could act as a statistical text. It has worked examples of the more elementary techniques; it also covers a large range of statistical methods by mentioning where they might be useful and providing references. A chapter on population genetics by N.R. Mendell and F.E. Ward provides many formulae, a glossary and frequent reference to the book by Cavalli-Sforza and Bodmer (presumably being used as its standby text).

The more overtly mathematical chapters are on signal processing by J.H. Van Bommel and pharmacokinetics and protein binding by M. Sheriff & R. Felming. They both have difficulty in finding a mathematical level, sometimes assuming knowledge at a much higher level than their explanation and seem to lose the simple approach in the complexity of their algebraic manipulation. The chapters on tracer techniques in nuclear medicine by R. Lawson and control of drug administration by D. Linkens include many topics already covered in early chapters, such as curve fitting, compartment analysis and combination of errors. They seem to match the statistical chapters by simplifying the mathematics, though the chapter on tracer techniques is not so heavily referenced and that on drug administration uses a lot of matrix algebra. The book ends strangely with a chapter by the editors on a graphical approach to linear systems.

Frequent reference to the six core volumes make it hard to consider the book on its own; however, the better chapters give references to alternative sources. A vast number of topics are covered with (usually) up-to-date references to articles. There must be over 600 references and the book would serve as a dictionary with references – unfortunately the index is not as comprehensive as it should be for this purpose. The book can only provide a brief introduction to various topics and the readers are then left to find their own way. The multi-author approach, though covering a wide range of experience, shows up the essential ambiguity of mathematical notation. A familiarity with mathematical notation would definitely be needed.

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