Ovarian Cancer, edited by C.N. Hudson. Pp. x + 373, illustrated. Oxford Medical Publications, Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1985. £35.00.

The treatment of ovarian cancer remains a serious challenge. Not only is it increasing in incidence but the overall prognosis remains very poor, with a median survival of only 8 months following diagnosis in advanced cases. Improvements in the management and treatment of this malignancy are however being made and are well covered in this book, edited by Professor Hudson who is himself one of the expert contributors.

The various aspects of ovarian cancer included are presentation, diagnosis, epidemiology, pathology, immunology, surgery (both primary and second look), chemotherapy and radiotherapy. The final two chapters are concerned with the important topics of clinical trials and the management of complications and provision of terminal care.

While the book does not attempt to be exhaustive, the more important aspects are well brought out. For example the need for careful clinical and surgical staging is emphasised. Only after this has been accurately carried out can decisions be made with regard to conservative or radical surgery, post-operative treatment and whether it should be radiotherapy or chemotherapy. The technique for carrying out radical surgery is expressed clearly and in detail with helpful diagrams and the rationale for cytoreductive surgery in epithelial ovarian cancer is discussed. The value of prognostic indices to define more accurately those patients with early epithelial ovarian carcinoma who can benefit from post-operative whole abdominal radiotherapy is reviewed in an authoritative chapter from the Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto. The chapter on chemotherapy is concise and to the point. In deciding on the best chemotherapy there are still many unknowns, for example: optimal dose, mode of administration, whether the drugs should be given intermittently, continuously, or sequentially. Combination chemotherapy gives improved response rates compared to single agent therapy but to date has only shown improved survival in two studies. Little work has been carried out comparing combination chemotherapy with sequential single agents but this is being investigated in New South Wales.

Two chapters are devoted to second look surgery, one being the personal view of J.P. Smith who strongly advocates laparotomy in patients with epithelial ovarian cancer who have no clinical evidence of disease following 12 courses of chemotherapy. Laparoscopy as an alternative to laparotomy is not recommended as it is too inaccurate with a false negative rate as high as 77%. As the value of second look surgery in terms of survival remains in doubt it should only be carried out within the confines of properly conducted clinical trials. The need for clinical trials in ovarian cancer continues and the reader will find useful advice in regard to ethical considerations, quality of life and assessing response using progression free intervals and overall survival. Unfortunately, most patients with ovarian cancer present late when cure is unlikely and a plea is made for an improvement in clinical awareness among all doctors in order to diagnose this tumour at an early and more curable stage. Specific tumour markers are present in germ cell tumours e.g. α -fetoprotein and are invaluable in their management but are not available for detecting epithelial ovarian carcinoma. However, tumour markers when present can be valuable in following patients

and much work is proceeding in particular in the field of monoclonal antibodies.

Further important matters receiving attention include the pathology of borderline epithelial tumours, the detailed pathology and treatment of germ cell tumours and the rare non-germinal ovarian malignancies. There is also a chapter on the cellular DNA content of malignant ovarian cells and its use as a prognostic indicator. The need for compassion and understanding in the terminal phases of this cancer is emphasised in the last chapter, an attitude which, hopefully, all of us will follow in our endeavour to give complete care to our patient.

In summary, this well written and informative book on ovarian cancer would be valuable to all physicians interested in this tumour, not only to update their knowledge but also as a useful reference book, especially as cross-referencing between chapters is used throughout. Professor Hudson hopes that new developments in the management of ovarian cancer will soon make this volume obsolete. The interest that such a book generates can only help to make this wish come true!

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Rob and Smith's Operative Surgery: Vascular Surgery, Fourth edition, edited by James A. DeWeese. Pp. xii + 459, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1985. £75.00.

This is a welcome new edition of Rob and Smith's *Operative Surgery*, the general editors' of which are now Dudley and Carter and the vascular surgical volume is edited once again by James A. DeWeese. The contributors are generally high standard contemporary or retired vascular surgeons. There is an arterial and venous section followed by some description of lymphatic procedures, sympathectomy and amputations.

The book begins with a new chapter on vascular laboratory examinations for arterial disease which provides a thumbnail sketch of the various tests available although it is not possible to show the importance and relevance of each test to the relevant clinical problems. It is interesting that percutaneous transluminal angioplasty is afforded pride of place as the first therapeutic technical procedure described in the book. This undoubtedly reflects the timing of this edition. Some parts of the atlas are inevitably controversial, such as the criteria for using a shunt for cerebral protection whilst performing carotid surgery. Here a pressure of 30 mm of mercury is given as the level below which a shunt should be used. There is also a chapter on aortoiliac thromboendarterectomy in which an arteriotomy is placed through the aorta right into the common iliac artery on the right. Although the author draws attention to the fact that the pre-aortic autonomic plexus should be preserved, this can be very difficult with an arteriotomy placed in this position.

The section on arterial reconstruction below the inguinal ligament describes the positional reverse vein bypass method and also femoro-popliteal thromboendarterectomy, which is almost never performed these days. It is therefore useful to have it in the edition so that reference can be made to it. The

comments on the Karmody and Leather *in situ* bypass technique are very welcome as this is a new technique which has appeared since the last edition. Some reference is made in this chapter about the different qualities of the two most commonly used prosthetic grafts, PTFE and human umbilical vein, but there are no drawings to indicate the special difficulties that are encountered with human umbilical vein and how they are overcome.

The chapter on operations for varicose veins is extremely full and traditional, in that stripping of the veins is performed both in the long and the short saphenous systems rather than removing the veins through tiny incisions with or without a tourniquet. Details of venous thrombectomy are welcome in this edition because once again this procedure is performed less and less and some younger surgeons will never have seen it done. There is a very full and useful chapter on

venous reconstructive procedures by Husni, the pioneer in this field.

The quality of the illustrations is generally very good although the type of illustrations varies considerably. In some chapters line drawings are used exclusively whilst in others tone is permitted. Generally speaking, the illustrations indicate the points quite well, although the variety of methods lacks a certain continuity.

The new edition is welcome and there is little overlap with the other atlas *Vascular Surgical Techniques* released by the same publisher in 1984.

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Books Received

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Biological Psychiatry – New Prospects: 5. Clinical and Pharmacological Studies in Psychiatric Disorders, edited by Graham D. Burrows, Trevor R. Norman and Lorraine Dennerstein. Pp. xviii + 394, illustrated. John Libbey, London, Paris, 1985. £26.00, US\$46.00, FF345.

Clinical Management of Neurogenic Communicative Disorders, Second edition, edited by Donnell F. Johns. Pp. xii + 323, illustrated. Little, Brown, Boston, Toronto, 1985. £24.00.

Education and Training in Psychiatry: a Case Study in the Continuity of Medical Education, edited by Henry Walton. Pp. 231. King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, London (distributed by Oxford University Press), 1986. £12.00.

Essentials of Urology, edited by Joseph N. Corriere, Jr. Pp. xi + 353, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1986. £29.00.

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The Foundations of Bioethics, H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr. Pp. xvi + 398. Oxford University Press, New York, Oxford, 1986. £24.00.

Growth Disorders in Infants, Children and Adolescents, Marvin L. Rallison. Pp. xi + 476, illustrated. John Wiley, New York, Chichester, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1986. £35.80.

Hospital Infections, Second edition, edited by John V. Bennett and Philip S. Brachman. Pp. xix + 666, illustrated. Little, Brown, Boston, Toronto, 1986. £47.15.

An Introduction to Marital Problems, J. Dominian. Pp. 206. Fount Paperbacks, London, 1986. £2.50 (UK), \$7.95 (Australia), \$9.95 (New Zealand).

An Introduction to the Psychotherapies, Second edition, edited by Sidney Bloch. Pp. ix + 285. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1986. £8.95 (paperback), £15.00 (hardback).

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Manual of Clinical Blood Transfusion, Branko Brozovic and Milica Brozovic. Pp. iii + 200, illustrated. Manuals Series. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £9.95.

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