Therapeutic Factors in Group Psychotherapy, Sidney Bloch and Eric Crouch. Oxford Medical Publications, pp. x + 342. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1985. £16.00.

The group psychotherapist looking for a therapeutic cookbook will not find it here. What they will find is a scholarly review of the literature in a field which has not been renowned for its conceptual clarity or quality of research. These shortcomings of previous work are partly due to the sheer complexity of group phenomena, and partly to the often noted resistance of group therapists to submit their work to research scrutiny, particularly when this concerns areas, such as therapeutic factors, which transcend and blur cherished theoretical boundaries.

Bloch and Crouch are therefore to be commended for deriving from this conceptual morass a clear, well-organised presentation of the ten therapeutic factors which they identify from the literature, and their description of each of which includes sections on the factor's definition, theoretical

basis, and relevant research. This they achieve by their emphasis on precise definition of terms, e.g. the differentiation of therapeutic factors from conditions for change and techniques. Each factor described is illustrated by quotes from group members' descriptions of their therapy; and a summary of each of the research investigations considered is included in an Appendix.

As with any review of the research literature, one can occasionally question the selection of the studies quoted, some of which are poorly designed or only reported in Dissertation Abstracts, while some work of greater clinical relevance is not considered. However, this is a minor criticism of a book which is a major contribution to the group psychotherapy literature.

David Winter
Napsbury Hospital,
London Colney,
Nr St Albans,
Herts AL2 1AA.

Books Received

Aids to Undergraduate Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Christopher Sinclair and J. Beverley Webb. Pp. iii + 191, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £4.95.

Behavioral Neurology: a Practical Approach, Howard S. Kirshner. Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery Monographs. Vol. 7. Pp. ix + 230, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, 1986. £24.50.

Diagnosis Before First Aid: a Manual for Emergency Care Workers, Second edition, Neville Marsden. Pp. xii + 225, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £6.95.

Food Additives, Erik Millstone. Pp. 163, illustrated. Penguin Books, Harmondsworth 1986. £2.95, \$8.95 (Australia), \$9.95 (New Zealand), \$6.95 (Canada).

Infertility: Male and Female, edited by Vaclav Insler and Bruno Lunenfeld. Pp. vi + 740, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £70.00.

Lecture Notes on Rheumatology, John Edmonds and Graham Hughes. Pp. vii + 307, illustrated. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Boston, Palo Alto, Melbourne, 1985. £8.50.

A Manual of Neonatal Intensive Care, Second edition, N.R.C.

Robertson. Pp. xiii + 369, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London, 1986. £10.95.

Mental Handicap – a Handbook of Care, edited by Eamon Shanley. Pp. ix + 336, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £13.95.

The Oxford Companion to Medicine, 2 vols., edited by John Walton, Paul B. Beeson and Ronald Bodley Scott. Associate editors and principal contributors S.G. Owen and Philip Rhodes. Pp. xxii + 1524, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, 1986. £55.00 set of 2 vols.

Practical Paediatric Problems, Sixth Edition, James H. Hutchison and Forrester Cockburn. Pp. xii + 727, illustrated. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books), London, 1986. £17.50.

Practical Pediatric Dermatology, Second edition, William L. Weston. Pp. xiv + 410, illustrated. Little, Brown, Boston, Toronto, 1985. £36.45.

Recent Advances in Rheumatology, No. 4, edited by J.M.H. Moll and R.D. Sturrock. Pp. ix + 256, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £40.00.

Respiratory Medicine, N.McI. Johnson. Pocket Consultant Series. Pp. 369, illustrated. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Boston, Palo Alto, Melbourne, 1986. £12.50.