for most eye and ENT surgery, with the chapter on controlled hypotension being particularly notable for its clarity and relevance.

Nonetheless, some criticisms can be made. For example, it was surprising to see no comment about malignant hyperpyrexia in the section on squint surgery. Although rare, this condition is associated with strabismus, a consideration which might influence anaesthetic technique. Similarly, the association of ptosis with dystrophia myotonica is not mentioned. These seem inappropriate omissions in a textbook of specialist anaesthetic practice. There are scattered minor errors and misprints ('phosphorous' for 'phosphate' on page 46, for example), and in places, the prose style leaves something to be desired.

Is this book likely to appeal to its intended readers? The experienced anaesthetist would probably gain relatively little, but most trainees would benefit from reading it. That said, how many of them are likely to part with £25.00 for a relatively small area of anaesthetic knowledge, with so many other claims on their purses (and time)? *Anaesthesia for Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery* is a book perhaps best suited to the departmental library, rather than to individual purchase.

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Anaesthesia: Review 3. Edited by Leon Kaufman. Pp. viii + 216, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £14.00.

The third volume of Kaufman's Review is a welcome addition to any anaesthetist's library. Some nineteen authors contribute seventeen reviews of topics ranging from opioid receptors and endorphins to the practical problems seen in obstetric and neurosurgical anaesthesia. I particularly enjoyed the contributions from Dr Branthwaite on cardiac risks and complications and Dr Armstrong on burns and inhalation injury.

The order of the book follows that seen in the first. Thus starting with the first chapter it comes as a surprise to read the introductory topic – respiratory function in colitis. One other surprise is Dr White's introduction of the term 'eduction' as the inverse of induction. Where dealing with single inhalational anaesthetics, I would prefer speed of onset and of recovery.

The book makes splendid bedside reading and will be useful for those involved in the examinations – as examinees, teachers and examiners.

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Brain's Diseases of the Nervous System. Ninth edition. Sir John Walton. Oxford Medical Publications. Pp. xi + 701, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1985. £45.00.

The first edition of Russell Brain's Diseases of the Nervous System appeared in 1933. In its review in the journal of the same name, one of the senior neurologists of the day wrote: . . . 'when Gowers wrote his still unequalled *Textbook of Nervous Diseases*, the author prepared himself for his task by a long apprenticeship in the practice of medicine . . . he wrote because he had something to impart and not simply because there was room on the market for a book on his subject. His book crystallized his own experience. It was not a compilation'. The reviewer, having thus made his point went on . . . 'More important than these criticisms of detail is the doubt we must feel about the book's purpose. It provides too much and too indiscriminately for the practitioner, too little and too superficially for the neurologist. The figures are of unequal merit and on the whole inadequate. Nothing has been missed and the result is rather a concise encyclopaedia than a working guide to neurology. Anatomy and physiology too have been treated at unusual length, though even the most ardent advocate of such a formulation to clinical neurology would admit that much of both these subjects is of purely academic interest and lacks practical application'. In spite of this review in *Brain* (the journal), *Brain* (the book) survived six editions and after the death of Brain (Lord) in 1966, the seventh edition came out revised by John Walton. In this, the 1985 ninth edition of the original book he has at last established his own right to the authorship of what I think is a most magnificent book on the subject and one which is also a pleasure to handle. It is the more remarkable in that it is the work of one man.

The general pathophysiological and anatomical aspects of Disorders of the Nervous System are covered in detail in both the early chapters and in the specific sections. The 1985 references include those to AIDS and MPTP though these are not listed in the index!

The reviewer cannot think of any other worthwhile criticisms and recommends this monumental book, without reservations, to established neurologists, postgraduate students of medicine and those undergraduates who have an interest in the subject. The bulk of this text will not age. Incidentally the cost, £45.00 (1986) compares favourably with £17.6. (1933), the 701 pages having a two-column format, compared with the original 899 pages.

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Consultation in General Surgery. Randolph B. Reinhold. Medical Consultation Series. Pp. v + 295, illustrated. B.C. Decker, Philadelphia, Toronto, C.V. Mosby, Saint Louis, Toronto, London, 1985. £19.00 (spinal binding).

In the foreword of this book *Consultation in General Surgery* Dr Kassirer states that a consultant is asked for specific

advice about a particular problem and he suggests that a good response is narrow and precise. With this in mind I looked forward to reading a book that addressed specific problems in general surgery. Instead I found yet another systematic approach only this time compressed into too small a space to be comprehensive. The book is small, to fit the pocket, and yet is spiral bound and therefore not very robust. The print is small and the tables and diagrams often complicated. The illustrative photographs, however, are very good, particularly the radiology.

The text is mostly clear and well written and the content is up to date, well argued and enjoyable reading. I enjoyed most of the sections and in particular the ones on breast and vascular disease but in both instances I was left wishing for more.

Dr Reinhold says in his preface 'Who needs another book about surgery?' I am sure there is a place for such a book but unfortunately this one falls between two stools, and it is not good value for money at £19.

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A Doctor in Saudi Arabia. G.E. Moloney. Pp. 365, illustrated. Regency Press (London & New York), London, 1985. £12.50.

Authors of articles and books about modern-day Saudi Arabia tend either to be distracted by the more sensationalist aspects of that developing country or to document simply the dry facts and figures which, although astonishing, do not give a satisfactory picture of Saudi society.

Professor Moloney has avoided these pitfalls in a most entertaining account of some of his experiences whilst working as Professor of Surgery at the University of Riyadh from 1977 to 1982. In addition he has provided a potted history of the country, a guide to cultural mores and short biographies of the kings following King Abdul Aziz, the founder of the kingdom.

The last section of the book is a potpourri of medical topics. Some of the diseases encountered in Saudi Arabia are mentioned, traditional forms of medical therapy, such as cauterization, are discussed and, finally, there are accounts of three field trips undertaken with students to different parts of the kingdom to study community health problems. This is the least satisfactory part of the book since there is too much medical detail for the lay reader but too little to be useful to the practising physician.

In one of the most fascinating sections Professor Moloney describes his travels, and attendant adventures, in many parts of the country. Such touristic glimpses of Saudi Arabia rarely find their way into print and form a valuable addition to the accounts of earlier travellers.

The book is lightly written in an almost conversational style which makes for easy reading but sometimes leads to a rather disjointed narrative. A keen clinical eye is cast on all events which are then conveyed to the reader with understanding, a lively sense of fun and not a little affection.

I believe the book will succeed best as an introduction to life in Saudi Arabia for the prospective worker in that country who will find it a useful prophylactic against inevitable culture shock.

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Hypoglycaemia in Infancy and Childhood. Albert Aynsley-Green and Gyula Soltész. Current Reviews in Paediatrics Series. Pp. vii + 165, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £18.00.

This book forms volume I of a new series of current reviews in paediatrics and covers a very important topic.

The first chapter describes the regulation of carbohydrate metabolism with the inclusion of fetal glucose homeostasis being particularly welcome. Subsequent chapters describe hypoglycaemia in the paediatric age group with emphasis on the mechanisms leading to hypoglycaemia. Neonatal hypoglycaemia and hyperinsulinism are comprehensively covered with clear discussion of areas of controversy. Hypoglycaemia due to inborn errors of metabolism is less well covered. Undue prominence is given to some extremely rare, although interesting, disorders, for example glycogen synthetase deficiency, whilst others are omitted, for example hereditary tyrosinaemia. Accelerated starvation syndrome and defects of fatty acid metabolism, which are being increasingly recognized as causes of hypoglycaemia, are clearly discussed.

The final chapter describes a practical, but thorough, approach to the diagnosis of the cause of hypoglycaemia in childhood. The references are comprehensive and the only criticism of the figures is the failure to use SI units throughout.

This volume is of interest to all paediatricians, especially those with an interest in neonatology, endocrinology or metabolic disease. It may be a little detailed for the MRCP candidate but gives welcome prominence to the importance of the basic sciences in paediatrics.

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Lymph Node Biopsy Interpretation. Edited by A.G. Stansfeld. Pp. v + 419, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £60.00.

The aim of this work is to assist general hospital histopathologists in the interpretation of lymph node biopsy specimens, and in this it is likely to succeed. The editor and