major author is one of the most experienced British lymphoma pathologists and a co-originator of the Kiel classification. The core of the book is a detailed, lucid and well illustrated exposition of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, according to this classification (with synonyms referable to others), including clinical features, with separate chapters on Hodgkin's disease and peripheral T-cell lymphomas. Other chapters cover non-neoplastic disorders, immune deficiency diseases, histiocytic tumours and metastases in lymph nodes, as well as technical aspects of biopsy and processing. Dr Habeshaw's chapter on immunohistochemistry of lymphoid cells contains a great deal of information about marker antibodies and extends the scope of the book beyond its stated aim.

The text as a whole is well written, and readable and the illustrations, apart from a few low power photomicrographs, of good quality. One criticism is that the book, perhaps inevitably, is out of date with few references after 1983. A particular omission, in view of the now general employment of the technique with paraffin sections, is the use of immunohistochemistry in diagnosing undifferentiated metastatic tumours in lymph nodes, which receives only passing mention. This is a situation where immunohistochemistry is likely to be used as a major aid by pathologists who do not have frequent exposure to such problems. Nonetheless, I found this book to be valuable as an aid to the light microscopic diagnosis of difficult lymph node biopsies.

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Le Magnésium en Pratique Clinique. Jean Durlach. Pp. xxiii + 387, illustrated. Editions Médicales Internationales, Paris, 1985. FF 230.00.

Together with potassium, magnesium is the major intracellular cation and plays a pivotal role in many physiological processes. In his book *Le Magnésium en Pratique Clinique*, J. Durlach presents an extensive review of the currently available knowledge on the involvement of magnesium in the maintenance of body homeostasis both in normal and pathological conditions. In a first chapter the metabolism and physiological properties of magnesium are reviewed. The following 3 chapters deal in much detail with diseases, associated either with primary or secondary magnesium deficiency, or with a pathological accumulation of magnesium in the body. Finally, in the last chapter of the book therapeutic measures involving magnesium are discussed.

The book is primarily intended to be a reference work for clinicians in the various disciplines of internal medicine. Both the detailed table of contents and the index with many entries are useful in this respect. The vast list of 1415 references, updated to 1985, covers publications worldwide and is accompanied by an index of authors. The book thus provides a broad access to all available literature in this field and can

therefore be recommended also to all those, clinicians and researchers alike, with a special interest in magnesium.

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A Manual of English for the Overseas Doctor. Third edition. Joy Parkinson. Pp. xiii + 274. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £7.50.

It is often said of doctors that they do not communicate effectively with their patients. The ability to talk to patients in an understandable style is indisputably an important facility in the complete management of a patient. It is also most desirable that a doctor is able to communicate with his colleagues, both medical and paramedical. The failure of doctors to inform is not always due to an inability to express themselves in English but rather a result of not fully appreciating the relevance of appropriate communication. It is a common fault for patients to be discharged from hospital to the care of their general practitioners without adequate data being provided in the temporary discharge notes and for the full summary to be sent months later! The NHS still depends heavily on overseas doctors for delivery of health care. In specialties such as psychiatry and care of the elderly, where the ability to communicate clearly in English is of the greatest importance, the NHS is largely dependent on overseas doctors in the 'training grades'. It is therefore appropriate that a manual of English for the overseas doctors is available.

Joy Parkinson is to be congratulated on being able to cover a wide range of disease conditions to demonstrate the use of colloquial English. The chapters on medical abbreviations, descriptive language and phrasal verbs are most helpful.

The importance of completing application forms in type rather than in long-hand could have been emphasized. Overseas doctors fail to seek advice from more senior colleagues before completing an application for a hospital post.

The introductory chapters on the structure of the NHS, organization within a hospital and postgraduate medical training were most useful. However, I felt it could have been emphasized that training posts in some specialties were difficult to obtain and as a consequence many overseas doctors found themselves in specialties not related to the type of examination they had intended to take. The new Home Office rules pertaining to overseas doctors could be usefully added to the next addition.

My criticisms relate more to the degree of emphasis rather than content. I would recommend this book to a doctor before he leaves his country to practise in the United Kingdom.

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