The Other Side of Medical Care, Carol Flemming. New Approaches to Care Series. Pp. ix + 113, illustrated. Macmillan Education, Basingstoke, 1986. £13.50 (hardback), £4.95 (paperback).

This book is the fifth in the series entitled 'New Approaches to Care'. This series aims to demonstrate the individuality of patients, regardless of age or diagnosis, and hence the responsibility of those caring for them, to ensure that not only do they receive high quality care, but also their self respect and dignity are maintained. Each book deals with a specific category of patients; children, the old, mentally ill, surgical patients, and now those with medical conditions. The author, an experienced ward sister, explains that, while nursing is as old as illness itself, new knowledge, research in nursing and an increase in professional self-confidence have combined to produce a situation where the nurse has more to offer the patient than ever before.

The book progresses by using small case histories of patients with a wide range of medical, psychological or social problems and nursing needs. These are used to show how nursing action was, or could have been, used to provide care, comfort and, frequently, physical improvement.

This is an easy book to read and, as such, could be given to new entrants to nursing (or indeed medicine) to help them realize that, while high technology is not to be despised, nursing is essentially the interaction of nurse with patient, both as idiosyncratic individuals.

Line drawings are scattered throughout, illustrating patients and nurses; apart from their function in breaking up the text, they have little value.

References at the end of each chapter and addresses of patient support societies at the end are useful. Nevertheless, this is an expensive book for its size (111 pages including the drawings) and not likely to be bought by many nurses.

C.M. Chapman
Department of Nursing Studies,
University of Wales College of Medicine,
Cardiff CF4 4XN.

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.

There have been, and are, any number of dictionaries of medicine but the Companion is unique as the medical equivalent of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. The entries range from short definitions to about 150 weighty contributions on major topics ranging from aerospace medicine and art in medicine to death, dying and the hospice movement, history of medicine, public health in the USA and women in medicine. There are over 1000 biographies of medical men and women who have attained distinction or notoriety in medicine and other walks of life. The Editors (sadly Sir Ronald Bodley Scott did not live to see the finished product) and contributors are to be congratulated on a splendid book. Notwithstanding its size it is very much more difficult to put

down than to pick up. Our review copy will prove an invaluable addition to our Editorial office library.

B.I. Hoffbrand
Editor,
Postgraduate Medical Journal,
6 St. Andrew's Place,
London NW1 4LB.

Primary Anaesthesia, edited by Maurice H. King. Oxford Medical Publications. Pp. ix + 169, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, Delhi, Kuala Lumpur, 1986. £7.95.

This book was produced by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation in conjunction with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kenya. It is an unusual book in that the senior editor, Maurice King, is a community physician, not an anaesthetist. However, his supporting cast of seven includes six anaesthetists and one surgeon. It is also different in that the chapters are not written by individuals. In addition there are 24 other people cited as contributing to the text – it seems that the book has been produced by the committee. The book is aimed at a very wide audience, all doctors who are working in the developing countries, their paramedical and medical administrative colleagues. The committee's succinctly stated aim is: 'to improve the quality of anaesthetic care wherever it is least adequate'. The book will certainly help to achieve this; however because it is written for people of widely differing educational backgrounds, the level of English used will mean that it will be almost incomprehensible for the majority of anaesthetic assistants. The committee would have been better advised to produce two books; one for the medical personnel and the other for the paramedical and administrative staff. It is however a worthwhile addition to the anaesthetic literature and should be available in all the operating theatres in the developing countries. It should be recommended for all doctors who are going to work in the Third World and I am sure anaesthetists in training in the developed world will benefit from the book. Finally, the committee are to be congratulated on producing an excellent book at impressive value for money.

C.J. Glynn
Oxford Regional Pain Relief Unit,
Abingdon Hospital,
Abingdon OX14 1AG.

Psychopharmacology of Sexual Disorders, edited by Mark Segal. Biological Psychiatry – New Prospects: 4. Pp. ix + 171, illustrated. John Libbey, London, Paris, 1985. £26.00, US \$46.00, FF345.

This book is based on papers originally presented at an international conference and now updated and expanded. The book is divided into two sections, one on basic sciences and the other on clinical aspects. In the basic sciences section

the topics covered include the role of phenylethylamine in the effects of antidepressants on sexual behaviour and a subsequent chapter on the role of monoamines in the mediation of male sexual performance. Further chapters describe the role of *p*-chlorophenylalanine and serotonin in female sexual behaviour, the role of endogenous opiates in the male and the relations between aggressive behaviour and testosterone level. The clinical chapters cover the sexual side effects of drugs, including drugs of abuse, neuroleptics, antidepressants and the psychopharmacology of sexual disorders of old age. This book, although it provides coverage of selected specialized topics, will be of interest to psychiatrists, endocrinologists and urologists who are interested in the scientific basis of sexual dysfunction.

R.M. Pearson
*Department of Clinical Pharmacology,
St. Bartholomew's Hospital,
London EC1A 7BE.*

Smoking Out the Barons: the Campaign Against the Tobacco Industry. A Report of the British Medical Association Public Affairs Division. Wiley Medical Publication. Pp. vii + 192. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, Published on behalf of the British Medical Association, 1986. £6.95.

This is a fascinating description of the BMA's fighting campaign against the tobacco industry. Their organizer knew that the industry could count on the support of about 100 MPs who had constituency or financial links with the tobacco or advertising companies. The campaign had to be well prepared, and the first part gives a candid month by month account of efforts to ban cigarette advertising and sports sponsorship of cigarettes and at the response made by the tobacco companies. Controversial policies such as the use of the black-edged cards for MPs are discussed. Each section contains lessons for campaigners making it an invaluable book for all those who seek to reduce the many unnecessary deaths from smoking.

Simon Chapman exposes the spurious arguments of the industry whose promotion leads to over a million deaths worldwide each year. Other sections deal with the companies efforts to encourage young women to smoke, and the reaction of children to cigarette advertisements. Embarrassment was caused by the BMA's publication of medical bodies investing in tobacco companies, including five medical schools and 12 health authorities. Many of them were unaware that companies such as Grand Metropolitan were

involved in tobacco production and a number of them have since sold their shares. This small book is easy to read and will be widely used. The BMA are to be congratulated on this account of their forceful campaign.

K.P. Ball
*Department of Community Medicine,
Central Middlesex Hospital,
London NW10 7NS.*

Surgical Infection in Critical Care Medicine, edited by Jonathan L. Meakins. Clinics in Critical Care Medicine Series. Pp. viii + 342, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1985. £22.00.

This book, written by several authors, is a comprehensive summary of events leading to infection and its pathogenesis, investigation, diagnosis and management in an ICU setting. However, no real effort has been made to demonstrate the importance of prevention of nosocomial infection in such patients, or to distinguish between colonization and infection. The style of English is simple, easy to read and understand and flows smoothly.

Understandably some of the recommended antibiotics in certain clinical situations differ from those normally used in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, in certain chapters there are highly controversial statements. On a similar token, effective treatment of some clinical conditions has been mentioned without quoting appropriate references. For a work of this nature, some overlap and repetition is probably unavoidable. On laboratory investigations sophisticated immunological tests, though helpful in understanding the body's defence mechanism to invasion by microbes, are beyond the reach and competence of most pathology departments, and are therefore not very practical suggestions.

It is not clear for which group of specialists the books is intended. Those who have the knowledge and expertise of managing patients in the Intensive Care Unit on a day to day basis are unlikely to benefit as there is nothing new in this book, but reading it may be compared to attending a refresher course. Recognition of team approach in management is welcome, in particular the important role of a keen radiologist in interventional radiology. The price, at £22, is reasonable. No doubt the book will benefit those who would like to make a career in ICU medicine.

B.Chattopadhyay
*Public Health Laboratory and Department of Microbiology,
Whipps Cross Hospital,
London E11 1NR.*