The Geography of Non-Infectious Disease, M.S.R. Hutt and D.P. Burkitt. Pp. xvi + 164, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1986. £20.00 (hardback), £12.50 (softback).

The geography of disease has always been an exciting area for the production of ideas about causation, and many major discoveries have come from the contemplation and investigations of regional and international variations. This small book, by two well-experienced authors, is not only a 'good read' but it provides all that most young doctors should know about the geography of a wide range of chronic diseases. Any medical student in this country would benefit from reading it and certainly should not venture on his elective abroad without a copy in his possession; and for medical and health science students in the developing countries, this is an excellent way of getting a perspective on disease distribution. For any reflective doctor who wants to start thinking about causal factors and preventive possibilities, this book makes a good starting point. This is not a text-book of epidemiological methods, it carries no 'unpalatable statistics' and one's reading is not impeded by a host of references that are only of interest to the specialist. My only criticism is that the title is not appealing and may even be misleading; possibly 'The Geography of Disease' with suitable caveats in the preface would be better for the next edition. I would be pleased to see this book on the recommended reading list for all medical students here and abroad and it will certainly excite the interest of community physicians, pathologists and those physicians and surgeons with enquiring minds.

Professor A.G. Shaper
*Department of Clinical Epidemiology,
Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine,
London NW3 2PF.*

Handbook of Voice Therapy for the School Clinician, William R. Leith and Robert G. Johnston. Pp. xv + 189. Taylor & Francis, London, 1986. £15.00

Several books have been written on voice disorders in recent years: some have been medically orientated dealing with laryngeal diseases and laryngeal pathology; others have co-ordinated pathology with the dynamics of appropriate treatment. More recently and most successfully, authors have edited contributions from specialists in selected areas of voice disorders.

The authors of this handbook have focused on the behavioural approach to voice disorders. They have built upon the cognitive behaviour model of their previous books and developed this system throughout. Much of this system is overstated and over analytical, reflecting the American patterning and rigidity. For the uninitiated, the chapters on counselling are detailed, but tend to extend beyond the clinical boundaries of functional and pathological voice disorders.

The authors give several definitive references to specific vocal profiles in their attempt to 'clarify confusion' among clinicians. Experienced clinicians will find the behavioural strategies too extreme in their American configuration, whilst newcomers to the profession will be unable to identify

with the schoolroom and group approach to treatments. Clearly, American youngsters have significantly more and varied voice disorders than on this side of the Atlantic. Or are these manifestations of disorders in young Americans?

I do not feel this is an essential handbook on voice disorders, but an interesting supplement.

Sarra V. Black
*Speech Therapy Department,
Mount Vernon Hospital,
Northwood, Middlesex HA6 2RN.*

Introduction to Sterilization and Disinfection, Joan F. Gardner and Margaret M. Peel. Pp. vii + 183, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Melbourne, Edinburgh, London, New York, 1986. £17.50.

The authors claim to have produced a text book aimed at hospital staff holding positions of responsibility in the supply and use of sterile equipment as well as for those involved in infection control. The authors follow a systematic approach, the early chapters deal with the microbiology and mathematics of sterilization, and subsequent chapters with the different methods of achieving this objective. The layout in each chapter is similar, creating a uniformity which adds to the book's value.

Although both authors are Australian, the UK literature, as well as the appropriate DHSS documents, are cited. The list of acknowledgements includes familiar UK experts.

The prospective purchaser will be disappointed if they wished for a practical manual or an exhaustive review of the physics and chemistry of sterilization. However, it is a good text book suitable for the clinical microbiologist, infection control nurse, CSSD manager, and the engineer or surgeon wishing to understand the basics of the subject.

This is a beautifully produced and well illustrated book at a reasonable price and is highly recommended to all those with an interest in the subject.

M.C. Kelsey
*Whittington Hospital,
London N19 5NF.*

Medical Problems in Pregnancy: Their Diagnosis and Management, John F. Mayberry, Andrew P. Bond and John S. Morris. Pp. vii + 214, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London, 1986. £9.50.

I greeted the arrival of this 'white coat pocket book' with some pleasure as there is clearly a need for such a volume, but on reading, I am both disappointed and somewhat saddened.

The authors seem confused as to their potential readership. There is far too much very basic description of common medical disorders for the physician to the extent that one almost feels the book is aimed at medical students. However, this surely cannot be, as in most medical schools obstetrics is now regarded as a *postgraduate* subject, and certainly obstetric medicine gets little more than a passing mention in most undergraduate curriculae.