great deal of my future will be concerned with the care of the terminally ill I have had to formulate my own opinions. Now foremost in my mind is that the quality and not quantity of life is of the essence for the dying. This message came over loud and clear again and again from the dying surgeon who recorded his feelings as his condition worsened. Furthermore Percy's resilience and courage as he continued to work and achieve more and more throughout his last days was a great example to us all. I was particularly touched by his reply on his death bed to the question: 'what would you do with your life if you had your time all over again?' to which he answered: 'I would spend much more time talking to my patients'. This was characteristic of this humble man who was grateful for the small mercies and simple pleasures.

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Current Orthopaedics, Vol. 1, No. 1, September 1986, edited by Robert A. Dickson. Pp. iv + 131, illustrated, Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1986. Quarterly subscriptions: institutions: £60.00 (UK), £65.00 (overseas), \$95.00 (USA); individuals: £39.00 (UK), £44.50 (overseas) \$67.00 (USA).

With the continuous proliferation of new journals which is taking place, the arrival of yet another new one must be carefully scrutinized. One must consider what the new journal can add to the already overcrowded field, and whether one would make time to read it. Fortunately, it is planned to produce *Current Orthopaedics* quarterly, so that it will not conflict too much with the monthly volumes of the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*. It is planned as a review journal, which will cover the whole range of adult and children's orthopaedics and trauma, plus regular articles on basic science and imaging.

There is no doubt that Professor Dickson and his team have produced a first class introductory volume. A variety of important clinical problems is discussed in reasonable detail. There is an excellent 'mini-symposium' on the various aspects of failed joint replacements. In the basic science section Stephen Perran discusses the response of bone to injury. Other contributions by experts are a section on juvenile chronic arthritis by Dr Barbara Ansell and on flexor tendon injuries by Raoul Tubiana and Beveridge.

If this is a sample of things to come, then it is certain that this new journal will be a success. For postgraduates working for high degrees it will be mandatory for pre-examination study, and overworked consultants will find the review articles will save them a considerable amount of background reading. At the cost of £39.00 for a personal annual subscription, it should prove to be a bargain.

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Handbook of Clinical Phonology: Approaches to Assessment and Treatment, Mary Elbert and Judith A. Gierut. Pp. xi + 170, illustrated. Taylor and Francis, London, 1986. £15.

This book is aimed at those studying and practising speech therapy. Some chapters are interesting and useful and others are disappointing. The introductory chapter on phonological development is very short and therefore lacks detail and examples. Traditional methods of assessing speech production are clearly described. In trying to avoid being judgemental the authors do not emphasize the dangers of these approaches which can give a superficial and misleading picture of a child's phonology. This could be confusing for a student of speech therapy. Following this summary of past approaches to assessment the reader is promised a guide to assessing the child's own unique sound system. However, the assessment procedures outlined prematurely compare the child's productions to adult targets. Practical exercises are included in the chapters on assessment. The final two chapters deal with intervention and facilitating the generalization of speech skills. The authors show imagination when giving examples of how knowledge from detailed assessments can guide therapy and enhance its effectiveness. The final chapter on generalization is particularly good. It includes interesting descriptions of studies that investigate how the treatment of certain structures can lead to different kinds of spontaneous generalization. The authors' suggestions on how to facilitate generalization are well thought out and very practical. They will be particularly useful for students and inexperienced speech therapists.

This book should be of interest to all those assessing and treating children with phonological problems. The chapters on treatment include useful practical advice.

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Human Genes and Diseases, edited by F. Blasi. Horizons in Biochemistry and Biophysics. Vol. 8. Pp. xii + 676, illustrated. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1986. £45.00.

This book costs £45 for which one gets sixteen reviews by 38 authors, photostet and quite nicely bound together. Some of the reviews cover broad areas (e.g. Ramirez and colleagues on collagens), others are more specialized (e.g. Leone on metallothionein gene regulation in Menke's disease). The general level is similar to chapters in *Annual Reviews of Genetics*, with substantial lists of references.

I do not doubt the quality of the sixteen individual chapters, but do question whether the whole is more or less than the sum of the parts. The book has been photostet from typescripts with different typefaces and styles of referencing. This is displeasing to the eye and, more important, means the editor had very little control over the content. The English of

non-English authors has not been tidied up; the reviews cover only a selection of the relevant diseases, and there is no general summary or overview, although there is a general index. In a book costing £45 and containing very few 1985 references, the usual excuses of cheapness and rapid publication are hard to make.

If you need a not too recent review of one of the specific topics covered, you may find this book useful. If you want an informed overview of the new genetics and clinical practice, Weatherall's book of that title is better written, better produced, more up to date and a quarter of the price.

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The Human Pulmonary Circulation: its Form and Function in Health and Disease. Third edition, Peter Harris and Donald Heath. Pp. xiv + 702, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £85.00

The nine years since the last edition of this classic text have seen a change in the forefronts of respiratory research, from physics and physiology, as applied in lung mechanics and gas exchange, to immunology and molecular biology. Human memory being fallible, however, this has inevitably led to neglect of some previous discoveries, particularly evident in the pulmonary circulation which was once in the front of cardio-pulmonary medicine, in the Cournand years after cardiac catheterisation. This third edition of Harrison & Heath sets the record straight, and restates many now classic facts which tend to be forgotten, with, as always, beautiful illustrations of tissue and structure. This is particularly apposite at a time when new therapeutic potentials for dealing with clinical pulmonary hypertension, and its consequent cor pulmonale are rapidly moving into practice, as with long term oxygen therapy, and the new potential pulmonary vasodilator drugs such as calcium blockers. Recognition of the metabolic and endocrine activities of the pulmonary endothelial cells, and their potential when damaged to generate the adult respiratory distress syndrome, are important additions to this new edition. Chapters on the basic measurements of haemodynamics remain classic and are all the more important in these days of digital readouts, where the apparent authority of the computer derived numbers can only too easily disguise the assumptions and imprecisions behind their derivation. As one might expect from this collaboration between a distinguished pathologist and a cardiologist, structure is closely linked to function throughout this text, and the structure is revealed by a plethora of electron microscopy, down to consideration of the molecular biology of receptor function. However, as with all major texts, there has clearly been the inevitable delay between writing and publication – as shown for example in the chapter on pharmacology of the pulmonary circulation, where important new work on calcium blocking drugs and beta₂ agonists as pulmonary vasodilators, in 1984/85, is not included. Some old ideas persist – such as the distinction between the 'emphysematous' and 'bronchial' types of

patients with chronic air flow limitation, whereas one might have expected a pathologist to have recognized the absence of justification for these terms, as revealed in careful clinicopathological correlative studies over the last 10 years.

These minor caveats aside, there can be no rival to Harrison and Heath as a primary source for argument-solving in the area of who said what and why about the human pulmonary circulation. The comprehensive coverage from the anatomy of the large pulmonary blood vessels to the clinical causes and presentations of various types of pulmonary hypertension, to the detailed consideration of the physiology of gas exchange, and structure function relationships within the pulmonary blood vessels is unsurpassed. The occasional 'dating' of the views expressed, always very well supported by detailed referencing, adds partly to the charm of this otherwise formidable tome. As the authors say in their preface 'the old is not inferior to the new' and as they have together been working in this field from the time of their first edition almost 25 years ago, they are uniquely placed to set such new knowledge in its proper context.

This book will be essential for any library meeting the demands of physicians, surgeons, pathologists, and physiologists who have a concern with the pulmonary circulation. Many will wish to have their own copy, for, although clearly not everyone will agree with all of the authors' opinions, it has no rival as a fundamental source book in this field. The need for this is ever more pressing today, with the potential for important new advances in both treatment and understanding of the interactions of the heart and the lung – meeting as they do in the human pulmonary circulation.

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IC-Process-PC (International Classification of Process in Primary Care). Prepared by the Classification Committee of WONCA (World Organization of National Colleges, Academies, and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians) in collaboration with the Classification Committee of NAPCRG (North American Primary Care Research Group). Pp. i + 61. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1986. £8.50.

This little book is a brave, though complicated, attempt to produce a classification system for primary care encounters. It is designed to be applicable to most countries and to facilitate collaborative research in the process of primary care. It catalogues events ranging from the initial contact of the patient with the health care provider, through the diagnostic, therapeutic and administrative aspects of the consultation to the arrangement for follow-up.

It was produced by the WONCA Classification Committee in association with the North American Primary Care Research Group and is designed to complement other classification systems such as the ICHPPC (International Classification of Health Problems in Primary Care).

It will be too complicated to be used by the average primary care worker carrying out research in his or her