genetic parlance is less incomprehensible than appears at first. Immunopathological reactions, virological related immunological abnormality, and disturbed immuno-regulation are reviewed in detail, and the uncertainties in the field and their significance are evaluated. A chapter on the pathogenesis of demyelination and possible aetiological mechanisms is followed by one detailing the pathophysiology. The last three chapters are devoted to neuro-psychological and psychiatric disturbances, treatment aimed at modifying the course of the disease, and symptomatic therapy.

Current views on all aspects of multiple sclerosis are fully covered in this volume and it is in my view of interest to, and a worthwhile investment for, both scientists and clinicians involved in the study and care of patients.

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Nausea and Vomiting: Mechanisms and Treatment, edited by C.J. Davis, G.V. Lake-Bakaar and D.G. Grahame-Smith. *Advances in Applied Neurological Sciences* 3. Pp. ix + 184, illustrated. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, Tokyo, 1986. Approx. £35.00.

'Knowledge is proud that he has learned so much; Wisdom is humble that he knows no more' wrote William Cowper two centuries ago. Our knowledge of nausea and vomiting is to be found in this book, discussed with some pride, but much wisdom and humility. This book is the result of a two-day symposium in Oxford in 1984 sponsored by Janssen Pharmaceutical Limited.

The first contribution sets the stage and asks if there is a common mechanism for the multiple causes of vomiting? The answer (six pages later) is a clear no. It follows that no single antiemetic will be effective for all causes. The next 65 pages cover the anatomy and physiology of the chemoreceptor trigger zone and area postrema, neurochemistry of the human area postrema, and the central and peripheral nervous pathways involved in nausea and vomiting. This part ends with a commentary on the first day's discussions, in particular the organization of vomiting as a protective reflex.

The second section (95 pages) covers the mechanism and treatment of nausea and vomiting associated with cytotoxics, radiation, motion, surgery and pregnancy. There follows a neurologist's view, and an approach to rational therapy which discusses two common solutions (prochlorperazine and metoclopramide). The book ends with an overview of the clinical discussions.

Clinicians who search this book for clear didactic guidelines for the bedside management of nausea and vomiting will do so in vain. However, those wishing to improve such management by clinical trials will find here a

rich repository of useful information. I would strongly advise starting with the first, middle and last contributions (each by one of the editors) before exploring the remainder.

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Orthopaedics, Geoffrey Hooper. *Colour Aids Series*. Pp. iii + 154, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £5.95.

This handsome new addition in the Colour Aids series sets out to provide a compact and easy to use manual for self study and refreshment of knowledge for medical students and examination candidates in all fields of health care. The volume is slim but comprehensive, the illustrations are of extremely high quality and the radiographs well produced. The accompanying text is a model of brevity and clarity.

I think this addition to the series is excellent, provides a very useful handbook for undergraduates both for first time and for revision reading. If I had any reservations they would be about the philosophy of the whole series. I have a fear that those who read this book may feel no need to study further, whereas I would see it as being a crammer, complementary to the more detailed text books in the field that are already available to undergraduates.

Highly recommended.

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Practical Procedures in Accident and Emergency Medicine, David G. Ferguson and Stuart M. Lord. Pp. vii + 237, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1986. £12.50.

The title threw me for a moment because the medicine is not internal medicine, but 'Cas', from Colles fracture to cardiac arrest. A series of drawings – most of them excellent, a few poor, are conveniently displayed side by side with instructions on how to do this or that: suture a wound or apply POP. The book is for the 'newly qualified doctor and senior medical student' and I pray that they won't go it alone on some of the procedures such as CVP line. A few personal quibbles; intracardiac injections should be relegated to the museum and the section on IPV seem out of place unless radiologists don't work at night or on Sundays! New doctors moan about the lack of instruction in practical techniques – this book will help them, provided they find a good teacher. Good value for money.

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