

A Simple Guide to Trauma, Fourth edition, R.L. Huckstep. Pp. xii + 397, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £7.50.

Those who are familiar with the 3rd edition of Professor Huckstep's book will not find much change in the 4th edition apart from the fact that the text is in much bolder and clearer type. Also, the author has taken the opportunity of including some of the implants that he has devised during the last few years.

For those not familiar with this book it lives up to its title; it is intended to fit into the pocket of a white coat and it does so. If left lying about, however, it is likely to find its way into the pocket of another white coat. There is scarcely an aspect of injury that is not touched upon and if those in need of guidance derive comfort and assurance from it, more experienced readers will recognize just how much experience, wisdom and ingenuity have been distilled to produce this essence.

Inevitably, a book as brief and dogmatic as this rightly is open to criticism on matters of detail but it is fair to say that harassed juniors who turn to it will not look in vain and will not be misguided by what they find.

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Textbook of Neonatology, edited by N.R.C. Robertson. Pp. xii + 907, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £90.00.

Although not all may be well with the practice of clinical medicine in this country, it is heartening to note the steady flow of authoritative clinical texts being issued from our publishing houses and there can be no doubt that Robertson's *Neonatology* will take its place among these and for many years will be a major reference book in neonatal units throughout the world.

It panders to a number of your reviewer's prejudices, particularly in the care and space it devotes to describing the context within which neonatology is practised. Thus there can be few better introductions to the subject than the early chapters dealing with epidemiological, psychological and ethical aspects and a critical look at follow-up studies. I was also delighted to be given a succinct lesson in obstetrics though am less confident that the difficulties of maintaining adequate communication between obstetrician and neonatologist have been fully addressed.

In addition the book contains some extended physiological sections, and those on respiratory and bilirubin physiology could well stand in their own right as significant reviews of their subject. Since so much of neonatal care is simply applied physiology this emphasis is greatly welcomed.

The list of international contributors is extensive and while this will no doubt help to increase sales worldwide, it is noteworthy that they write with the authority of those currently engaged in the day-to-day provision of neonatal

care in all its aspects and perhaps this contributes significantly to the strong editorial coherence Dr Robertson has achieved.

This excellently produced textbook is not cheap but it is surely destined to be a classic and in my view is excellent value for money.

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The Year Book of Medicine 1986, edited by David E. Rogers and others. Pp. 839, illustrated. Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago, London. Distributed by Wolfe Medical Publications, London, 1986. £43.00.

It is some years since I have looked at *The Year Book of Medicine* and being given the above edition to review made me realize what I had missed. Instead of reading through the various journals hoping to note, remember and even recognize the important papers, here they all are and more besides. Each paper is clearly summarized including any necessary tables, diagrams and illustrations. Far more important are the Editors' comments which are brief, pithy, well informed and often humorous. They supplement the papers and include additional references.

The book is divided into the major specialities of general medicine with the exception of neurology. The editors of each section are distinguished American authorities but the papers reviewed are worldwide with a high proportion from British journals and very up-to-date from the second half of 1984 until August 1985.

Looking up references to recent clinical problems resulted in learning the latest work on subjects as diverse as post-viral fatigue syndrome, primary pulmonary hypertension, transient hyperthyroidism and the various factors in coronary bypass surgery. I would recommend that this book should be available to physicians involved in teaching as well as to undergraduates and postgraduates as a quick way of updating their knowledge. It should also be read by presenters at Case Conferences and perhaps even by M.R.C.P. examiners and therefore by candidates.

The book is well produced, not over large, excellently bound and, for 732 pages of facts, not over-expensive at £43.00. The index is comprehensive and also includes the last four Year Books.

I think the editors should be congratulated on the prompt appearance of this useful summary of recent publications in general medicine and it should be purchased by hospital and medical department libraries and by any physician trying to keep abreast of the avalanche of medical information.

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