Clinics in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Vol. 13, no. 2, June 1986. Prescribing in Pregnancy, edited by Gordon M. Stirrat and Linda Beeley. Pp. ix + Pp. 161–420. W.B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, 1986. £13.50.

Prescribing for pregnant or lactating women causes concern among both doctors and their patients. Previous insecurities have been heightened by recent litigation over fetal malformations and the maternal consumption of anti-emetics in the first trimester. The appearance of this second volume on the subject of prescribing in pregnancy is, therefore, timely for there is no better way of allaying fears than access to up-to-date, authoritative information.

The current volume is complementary to the first but addresses topics where therapeutic approaches have changed, e.g. the treatment of hypertension in pregnancy, and attempts to indicate the balance of benefit and risk – to both mother and her baby. In their context the two chapters on adverse effects of drugs in pregnancy are invaluable and reassuring. Obstetricians will value chapter 4 on prescribing for labour and chapter 5 on the management of pre-term labour, whereas that on drugs and breast feeding will be of value to a much wider audience. The remaining chapters are on specialised topics including thyroid disease, diabetes, renal disease, gastrointestinal disease, anticoagulant and anticonvulsant therapy plus psychiatric disorders in pregnancy and the puerperium.

The editors are to be congratulated upon producing a book which will appeal to both specialists and general practitioners and at a modest cost.

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The ECG in Practice, John Hampton. Pp. iii + 229, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £4.95.

The ECG in Practice is a clinically orientated book written as a companion to its predecessor *The ECG Made Easy*. The book stresses the importance of interpreting ECG abnormalities in light of the clinical condition. Chapters include key changes in patients presenting with palpitations, chest pain, breathlessness or metabolic abnormalities. Finally an easy-to-read section discusses the electrophysiological basis of abnormal electrocardiograms. The text is clear and concise and the figures are well chosen. There are only a few criticisms. The differentiation of supraventricular tachycardia with aberration from ventricular tachycardia is a common diagnostic problem. Perhaps a more comprehensive guide to separate these arrhythmias could have been included. The management of cardiopulmonary resuscitation appears to reflect the author's opinion rather than that proposed by current literature. Many may disagree that it is justified to continue exercise ECG testing on the presence of diagnostic ECG changes if the patient's symptoms are not severe. The example of VF (page 131) illustrates what may happen if this advice is followed! This is an otherwise excellent practical guide to ECG interpretation which should

be necessary reading for junior hospital doctors and nurses involved in coronary care management.

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Lindow Man: the Body in the Bog, edited by I.M. Stead, J.B. Bourke and Don Brothwell. Pp. 208, illustrated. British Museum Publications, London, 1986. £15.00.

This beautifully presented text is the definitive publication of Lindow Man, the body found in 1984 in a Cheshire bog. Seldom, if ever, has an ancient body been subjected to such detailed investigation by such a wide range of forensic scientific techniques. The way in which the minutiae of the detailed research and investigations performed are described makes the text fascinating reading. Being the only surviving bog burial from England, Lindow Man not only is unique but he has provided extensive computerised and other data to be studied. In addition, the detailed information of other bog burials in Britain are listed. The large number of contributors to this fascinating text are only 'the tip of the iceberg' of those involved in the discovering, recording and researching of Lindow Man. With some 50 black and white illustrations and 19 tables and line drawings, this extremely readable book contains all problems, techniques, research and advice necessary for any one interested in a future 'dig'. The authors have to be congratulated on being able to condense into one volume all the information learnt, without loss or detriment to this remarkable discovery which has prompted such enormous public interest apart from its great archaeological excitement. For all, however remotely connected with archaeology, pathology or forensic science this volume is a must. This expertly compiled and beautifully produced volume is an excellent erudite scientific 'who dunnit' – well worth £15.00.

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Rob and Smith's Operative Surgery: Nose and Throat. Fourth edition, edited by John C. Ballantyne and D.F.N. Harrison. Pp. xiv + 475, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1986. £75.00.

This well established surgical atlas is now in its fourth edition, the third having appeared in 1976. The authorship has been considerably widened to include a number of contributions from North America. The editor's aim is to cover comprehensively all the surgical procedures carried out in this field and on the whole this has been achieved although the omission of a chapter on palliative oesophageal intubation is perhaps unwise.

It is interesting to see which procedures have been excluded – guillotine tonsillectomy has at last disappeared from this edition and mediastinoscopy is no longer described.