be of particular use to teachers, therapists and nurses working with handicapped children in schools.

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Clinics in Haematology. Vol. 15, no. 1, Feb. 1986. Autologous Bone Marrow Transplantation, edited by Anthony H. Goldstone. Pp. x + 272, illustrated. W.B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, 1986. £15.00.

It is now quite evident that many patients with acute leukaemia and chronic myeloid leukaemia have been cured of their disease by a bone marrow transplant from a compatible sibling. Much of this success is due to the therapeutic freedom to intensify chemo/radiotherapy provided by this procedure. However the limited application of allogeneic transplantation has led haemato-oncologists to explore the wider use of autologous bone marrow transplantation (ABMT) to achieve the same result. Although initially viewed with some scepticism the publication of this volume testifies to an ever increasing interest in this approach that has resulted in numerous exciting recent developments.

This edition of *Clinics* ranges widely in its treatment of this fascinating field. Like other volumes in this series it suffers somewhat from a prolixity of style leading to some repetition and overlap of chapters. In places it seems the authors are uncertain whether a section is to serve as a detailed technical account or rather a concise overview of recent developments in a particular field.

Since autologous marrow is probably of rather inferior quality compared to that from a healthy donor the chapter on cryopreservation techniques and how to ensure optimal stem cell yields is very welcome. This is an excellent introduction to both theory and practice and the technical aspects are well presented. The view that twin transplant results may represent the best that can be achieved from ABMT is put forward in a review of data from Seattle. The possible role of a graft-versus-leukaemia effect (GVL) and the importance of its absence in twin and autologous transplants are discussed here and in subsequent chapters. The intriguing possibility that tumour immunised T-lymphocytes may be beneficial in ABMT and that their potential might be increased by lymphokines is also mentioned.

To purge or not to purge is currently a vexed question among the ABMT fraternity. The contribution of reinfused malignant cells to eventual relapse is unknown and the chapters on pharmacological and immunological cleansing of the marrow *in vitro* both address this problem. In the former case and in the section devoted to the lymphomas a more concise style with a better use of tables instead of text would have served to clarify a rather bewildering plethora of data. The sections on acute leukaemia are both excellent with appropriate emphasis on the critical evaluation of survival data and their dependence on the interval from diagnosis to ABMT. A more critical appraisal of purging here provides a salutary balance to the previous section.

The failure of ABMT in solid tumour therapy makes fairly dismal reading. It is made clear that ABMT can only be as

effective as the anti-cancer therapy that it follows. The short accounts of chronic myeloid leukaemia and the use of monoclonal antibodies *in vitro* are both quite helpful although the latter concentrates on leukaemic markers leaving the reader little the wiser regarding the current status of immunological purging.

Despite quibbles this is a useful addition to the series and serves to set the stage for future developments rather than providing any firm answers. It is important to realise that the advantage of ABMT over conventional therapy has yet to be conclusively demonstrated for a single condition. It is a sign of the pace of progress in this field that two recent developments, the *ex vivo* long term culture of marrow to reduce tumour load and the use of peripheral blood stem cells for autografting are nowhere mentioned in this text.

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A Guide to Drug Eruptions: the File of Side Effects to the Skin. Fourth edition, edited by W. Bruinsma. Pp. 124. The File of Medicines, Oosthuizen, The Netherlands, 1987. US \$35.00 (including yearly supplements)

Each year drug-related illness accounts for a significant number of hospital admissions. Since a large majority of allergic reactions affect the skin the incidence of drug-induced cutaneous eruptions probably reflects the risk of allergic drug reactions in general. Any treatise which attempts to record the type and risk of an unwanted side effect is to be welcomed.

Dr Bruinsma's book, now in its 4th Edition in 14 years, provides a list of dermatoses and the various drugs which induce them. The 124 page soft covered book deals in its first 59 pages with the skin reaction and the drugs responsible and in the following 33 pages names the drug and allies it to its dermatological side effects. The lack of illustrations assumes a degree of dermatological knowledge from the student and the non-dermatologist but in practice I do not feel this detracts from the usefulness of the book as a short quick guide to eruptions. For a more detailed knowledge of the subject there are 16 pages of references. The price of the book includes yearly supplements until another edition becomes due.

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Diagnostic Imaging in Neurological Disease, Ivan Moseley. Pp. x + 283, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £55.00.

This book is unique among texts of its own class. The content is as defined by the author in the Preface, '... to indicate to

the neurologist, the neurosurgeon, the radiologist . . . not what tests can be done, and what they show, but what ought to be done.' The style is forceful, often amusing, admitting extensive referencing as indicated by the Preface, ' . . . when concluding, as I have been forced to do, that many of the traditional tests carried out in their thousands every day are useless . . . one must present the reasons for one's conclusions.' We are challenged to draw a distinction between tests which provide information for research purposes and those necessary for the actual management of the individual patient, and the author is critical of specialists who make recommendations coloured by their personal interests, singling out those involved in ultrasonics and radionuclide studies in particular. Moreover, some references are cited to be condemned for the muddled thinking they have caused, for example papers which have concluded that two forms of investigation are 'complementary' when the data they contain has indicated clearly that one test is superior to the other, or others presenting investigational flow charts where complex diverging pathways all lead in the end to computed tomography.

The early chapters describe the investigations which are possible, placing emphasis on cost and effects on the patient. Subsequent chapters consider clinical contexts and how imaging investigations should proceed in relation to other tests, each concluding with general recommendations; the emphasis is squarely on the efficacy of each test related to a specific clinical problem. However many of the conclusions will be considered controversial by some readers, such as the subservient place assigned to ultrasound in the evaluation of extracranial vascular disease and many others of similar genre. Whatever one's opinion may be this book provides an invaluable guide for those clinicians who wish to obtain only that information necessary for management decisions in a particular patient in the fewest possible steps and with the least risk to the patient. Radiologists controlling the flood gates against the torrent of unnecessary investigations will find valuable documentation of those clinical situations in which common tests such as plain radiography and even CT have such a low diagnostic yield as not to be worth doing, and thereby help them to manage their investigational workload. In short it is difficult to find any point in which to criticize this text. I certainly enjoyed reading it very much and can thoroughly recommend it to 'any . . . who see patients with neurological illness . . . ' in whatever capacity that may be.

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Methods and Concepts in Hand Surgery, edited by Neil Watson and Richard J. Smith. Butterworths International Medical Reviews: Orthopaedics. Vol. 3. Pp. v + 357, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1986. £50.00.

This book is not intended to be a textbook of hand surgery. It consists of a series of reviews of important and occasionally controversial topics. These are written by expert and well-respected authors and represent their personal views on such

subjects as the arthritic hand, Dupuytren's disease, tendon and nerve injuries and the painful hand, among others. Most of the authors provide excellent overviews of their particular topics with references to papers published as recently as 1985. The editors freely admit that not all readers will be in agreement with the ideas expressed and it is true that the experienced hand surgeon may find himself questioning some of the statements made and perhaps looking closely at his own practice when he has done so. However most of the views are non-controversial and the book can be recommended to the trainee, who will learn much from it. The editors are to be congratulated on assembling such an excellent group of contributors and producing a volume that is well up to the standards set by previous publications in this series. I believe that it should be in the library of most departments of plastic and orthopaedic surgery.

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Handbook of Hemostasis and Thrombosis: a Diagnostic and Therapeutic Approach, Jack E. Ansell, with a chapter by Bruce S. Cutler. Pp. x + 130, illustrated. Little, Brown, Boston, Toronto, 1986. £12.00.

This is an interesting and informative little book, and there is a wealth of up-to-date information on haemostasis, presented reasonably simply.

Clearly, in a book this size, there is no room for discussion of policy. Thus, platelet concentrate would be prescribed at a platelet count of $20 \times 10^9/l$, even if there were no haemorrhage – a different policy from the British. This may be related to the emphasis on 'cost-benefit' to the patient throughout the book. The American experience with respect to the incidence of Factor VIII inhibitors in haemophilia is clearly different from ours, being much higher than in Britain.

Surprisingly, for a handbook, there is no detail about how to carry out marrow aspiration, or how to do the simpler of the coagulation tests mentioned. It is white-coat-pocket-sized, but its physical form, with printing almost up to the page margins, makes it difficult to read, and keep fully open. Also, the tables and figures are frequently in a later page, which adds to the difficulties when using this as a handbook.

However, this is a useful book for a refresher course both for haematologists and for physicians and surgeons dealing the patients likely to have, or with, thrombotic disease, as well as being of value to more junior medical staff working for MRCP.

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