uncommon diseases, while the specialist is kept in touch with basic science trends which may impinge on any of his interests.

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Functional Histology – a Text and Colour Atlas, P.R. Wheater. Pp. 348, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1987. £16.95.

Functional Histology must rank highly amongst text-books on morphology. Such texts tend to be verbose, the author trying to cram so much detail into the work as to obscure the basic essentials and ideas and to confuse the reader. Not so this work, which, in its second edition, maintains the high standard of the first. Whether one is studying normal or abnormal morphology, a clear basic understanding is essential, particularly with regard to the latter. Here functional histology remains vital to an understanding of histopathology.

The second edition is once again a mixture of superb colour photomicrographs, electron micrographs and line drawings, the former being, once again, outstanding in their clarity of detail and the accuracy of their colour.

The texts accompanying the illustrations are succinct and very much to the point and form a natural adjunct to the former. Once again this is a very valuable addition to the library of works on morphology, maintaining the high standard set by the first edition.

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Homoeopathy for Everyone, Sheila and Robin Gibson. Pp. 223, illustrated. Penguin Books, London, 1987. £3.95.

Homoeopathy is perhaps the most enigmatic of all the so-called complementary therapies. Unlike the manipulative therapies, osteopathy and chiropractic, it is practised not by specially-trained practitioners, but largely by doctors with normal undergraduate training. Unlike acupuncture it is not mysteriously oriental, but originates in the European enlightenment, and has developed in parallel with modern orthodox medicine. It is the only form of complementary medicine to have dedicated NHS facilities (there are five NHS homoeopathic hospitals in the UK).

The last decade has seen a strong and sustained growth in the demand for homoeopathic medicine among the general public. Somewhat belatedly, this is now being followed by a surge of interest from the medical profession, driven partly by the increasing intrusion of market forces into the delivery of health care and career structures, and partly by a steady trickle of high-quality research publications demonstrating that there is more to homoeopathy than the placebo effect.

Publishers are never slow to spot a promising trend, and this book is one of a crop of recent publications. It has a good pedigree: Robin Gibson is a consultant at the Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital, and his wife Sheila a clinical assistant there, with a strong academic background. Between them, they are responsible for a number of important pieces of research, particularly in rheumatoid arthritis.

The problem with this book is, it seems to me, that it takes its title too literally. In attempting to provide something for everyone, the authors have fallen into a compromise which may prove unsatisfactory for everyone. For instance, the clinical material and the vision of the future presented by the Gibsons will do little to convince a sceptical doctor. Although the survey of the research scene in homoeopathy is the fullest yet published in English, it is not fully up-to-date or comprehensive. At the same time, patients looking for simple, basic information will find it difficult to locate in this book.

Doctors with a serious interest in understanding or practising homoeopathy will be much better served by one of the recent textbooks, such as Boyd's *Introduction to Homoeopathic Medicine*, or Koehler's *Handbook of Homoeopathy*, while those looking for a fundamental approach to the physical chemistry of extremely high dilutions will find Resch and Gutmann's *Scientific Foundations of Homoeopathy* a challenging read.

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Imaging in Internal Medicine, edited by R.L. Siegle. Pp. vii+262. Little, Brown & Co, Boston, Toronto, 1987. £17.50.

A basic radiological text should be comprehensive, readable and practical, particularly when aimed at junior staff or as an introduction to training in radiology. Hopefully it may then also appeal to physicians as an overview of conventional techniques as related to the newer imaging or scanning methods. Besides being informative, it should be well presented with clear relevant illustrations, adequately captioned, and arrowed. Nothing should be left to the readers' imagination.

Pride of place, however, should be given to the rapid progress made by radiology in the last 15 years leading to a whole range of new activities both diagnostic and therapeutic. Sonography, to take just one example, has branched out in several directions. Anatomical detail is now excellent and regions previously considered inappropriate are now routinely examined. Thyroid, testes, joints and neonatal heads are some areas where sonography is preferred. Then there is its role in localising lesions for biopsy, cytology and abscess drainage. Both the needle tip and the abnormality can be shown in 'real time' so that one can actually see the tip of the needle entering and in the lesion. Echocardiography has proved to be of extreme value and Doppler ultrasound is being applied to blood flow, not only for superficial arteries but even for the renals and mesenterics. The advances and applications of computed tomography, magnetic