

The most significant advances in the specialty over the last ten years have been in endocrinology, oncology and assisted fertility. These changes are covered adequately in this new Edition for the needs of undergraduates. Those working for higher examinations will need to read further and more widely in specialist reviews. Is this book aimed, therefore, at undergraduates or postgraduates? The price at £45 is most certainly more than most undergraduates will want to pay and postgraduates will need to read more widely about recent advances. As most libraries will already have the previous Edition of this book on their shelves it would, I think be difficult to justify purchase of this latest Edition.

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The Management of Leg Ulcers (2nd edition), T.J. Tyan. Pp. viii + 101, illustrated. Oxford Medical Publications, Oxford, 1987. £8.95 (paperback).

Terence Ryan's friendly little book on the management of leg ulceration has now gone into a second edition, four years after its first appearance. It is still easy to read and provides a straightforward didactic approach to its subject which is ideal for doctors in training and general practitioners, who want rapid and practical advice on ulcer management. The book is written by a dermatologist and therefore is strong on the conservative management of ulceration and its associated skin complications while it is less convincing on the surgical management of ulcers and the subsequent corrective venous surgery.

While there is a good bibliography at the end of the book, all statements in it are unreferenced and there is no attempt to discuss the relative merits of different forms of treatment and their results. This book is therefore the simple man's guide to leg ulceration, and it succeeds admirably at this level. Every general practice and leg ulcer clinic should purchase a copy.

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Multiple Choice Questions in General Medicine, Volume 1, edited by J.R. Lawrence & J.D. Hunter. Pp. 206. Churchill Livingstone, Melbourne, Edinburgh, London & New York, 1986. £5.95.

This is another book of multiple choice questions in general medicine which has been prepared by two Australian physicians with the needs of examination candidates very much in mind. In addition to 200 questions embracing a wide range of general medical topics there is a large section devoted to explaining the answers with back-up references, albeit somewhat parochial.

The multiple choice questions have been well prepared and well researched and present a very fair challenge. Some of the answers, however, are rather idiosyncratic. The use, for example, of methoxamine to combat ventricular fibrillation is certainly not a recognised indication in the United Kingdom. I would also cavil at the statement that ventricular bigemini may be associated with mitral valve prolapse. This would imply the subjection of every patient with ventricular ectopics to echocardiography in the absence of any other indication. Another problem is occasional carelessness in phraseology. An abnormal Schilling test may not be corrected by the administration of intrinsic factor in patients with post gastrectomy megaloblastic anaemia. In some patients, however, it is. The statement that an 'abnormal Schilling's test observed both with and without the administration of intrinsic factor is found in patients with post gastrectomy megaloblastic anaemia' is therefore impossible to answer correctly.

In general however I would recommend the book to candidates about to embark upon the multiple choice question part of the M.R.C.P. as it will provide useful practice. I would however have liked to have seen the book divided into chapters and above all for an index to have been included. Without these aids it is difficult to retrieve information without the chore of ploughing through the whole book. Perhaps in subsequent editions the authors may rectify these omissions.

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Neuropsychological Rehabilitation, Manfred J. Meier, Arthur L. Benton and Leonard Diller. Pp. ix + 475, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1987. £45.00.

This is an interesting and stimulating book, sufficiently interesting to be read on holiday in France. The 36 contributors have between them put forward many ideas and concepts that are probably not drawn together in any other single volume.

Anyone seeking a well-structured, comprehensive text on neuropsychological rehabilitation will, I am afraid, be disappointed. There is some overlap between chapters, though this often highlights the different opinions or approaches and is a strong point, not a weakness of the book. One minor criticism is a tendency of many authors to use as references for contentious or exciting topics articles that are totally unpublished or virtually inaccessible.

The third part of the book, which is supposed to review rehabilitation in different countries could well have been omitted. The 90 pages could either be removed, reducing the cost, or could have been used to cover other aspects of the subject.

The book should be of great interest to anyone concerned with the management of patients with brain damage. Though most work has been conducted on patients with stroke or head injury, the ideas will apply to

many other conditions. I would recommend a thorough reading. The cost will be well covered by the many challenging ideas that most readers should gain from this book.

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A Practical Guide to Cataract and Lens Implant Surgery, R.S. Bartholomew. Pp. viii + 72, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £22.00.

In the past decade ophthalmology has seen a change in cataract surgery away from the intracapsular method back to the extracapsular but with all the advantages of operating microscopes and sophisticated technology now available. This change has been prompted by the need for good fixation for lens implants which the extracapsular method provides. This slim volume is aimed primarily at the practicing surgeon who wishes to make this change (and a very painful one it can be!) but is also of value to the senior resident more likely to have been brought up on extracapsular surgery. The author is a meticulous and skilled surgeon with a large experience of the extracapsular technique and he has spent a lot of time teaching other surgeons. This experience shows up to advantage in the book he has written. A separate chapter is devoted to each stage of the operation and emphasis is correctly placed upon the importance of performing each step correctly in order to prevent complications later on in the procedure. Thus, a chapter is devoted to anterior capsulotomy, another to removal of the nucleus, removal of the cortex and so on.

Descriptions of the finer points of technique are exhaustive and the illustrations (all in black and white) by the author himself are excellent. Anybody starting to undertake the extracapsular technique should read this book and surgeons who are having problems with their technique can be assured that all the hazards involved are discussed in detail and a remedy given.

A book such as this must of necessity be a personal view and this one is no exception. No mention is made of mechanical methods of cortex removal and there is little description of lens types. One of the difficulties in writing books about a field which is advancing as rapidly as implant surgery is that certain parts of the technique may change between the book being written and published. In the last four years much emphasis has been placed upon the importance of fixation of the implant loops within the capsular bag. Both clinical and histological evidence support the view that fixation in the bag rather than in the ciliary sulcus gives better long term results by preventing ciliary erosion and the complications thereof. Small but important changes in method have therefore been introduced by way of the so called 'inter capsular' technique whereby the capsule is left almost intact until after the insertion of the implant and a capsulotomy is

performed at the end of the operation. This method is not discussed beyond the statement that the author prefers ciliary sulcus fixation and this is a serious omission. However, in spite of these quibbles most of this book is still completely relevant. One or two of the chapters, such as the one on removal of the cortex, are quite excellent. It can be thoroughly recommended to the surgeon wishing to begin extracapsular surgery or who is having difficulties with the technique (and that includes most of us). The modest sum involved might save many sleepless nights.

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Progress in Transplantation. Vol. 3, edited by Peter J. Morris and Nicholas L. Tilney. Pp. ix + 217, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £40.00.

This is the third volume of a series designed to look critically at important issues in transplantation, and the editors have selected topics of current interest written by authoritative workers.

The first contribution is devoted to chemical immunosuppression, obviously of central importance in all organ transplantation except between identical twins. The subject is handled sensibly although I was surprised to see a whole page devoted to nifedipine, one of many drugs that was hoped to be useful but found to be ineffective.

The second chapter is specifically concerned with cyclosporin measurements and their interpretation in relation to efficacy and nephrotoxicity. The subject is critically reviewed and the authors conclude that even when all the technical difficulties of blood level measurements are overcome, the information derived is only one indicator and that the whole clinical picture is the most important background from which to plan cyclosporin therapy.

The next chapter is more theoretical: a discussion of activation and expression of allograft immunity by Lafferty and colleagues. The significance and importance of many of the *in vivo* models of transplantation immunity are difficult to visualise separated from the whole living organism. A reaction that may seem to be predominant *in vitro* may be unimportant in the behaviour of the patient towards his graft. Nevertheless, basic models without the interference of other reactions may shed light and this chapter is certainly of interest to the practical transplanters as well as the more basic scientist.

In some patients antibody rejection of grafts predominates over cell mediated reactions and the fourth chapter is concerned with the relevance of antibodies in transplantation.

There are then two chapters on pancreas transplantation; the vascularised pancreatic graft where clinical results are beginning to improve and the islet and