

more than ten years old. The text is lucidly written and the illustrations are apt and appropriate.

Minor criticisms include the use of plasma oestrogen in the investigation of dysfunctional uterine bleeding, the Dalcon shield for Asherman's syndrome and the failure to mention detrusor instability at all when discussing urinary incontinence.

The book is not expensive and achieves its aim of enhancing communication skills.

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**Multiple Choice Questions in Radiodiagnosis**, A. Crozier, D. Finlay and P. Paciorek. Pp. 122. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £5.95.

The multiple choice papers of the Final Examination in Diagnostic Radiology are, like most multiple choice papers, extremely trying for most candidates. This collection of ten papers, each of 30 sections of five questions, is designed 'to provide teaching as well as practice in answering multiple choice questions'.

It fulfils its brief admirably. The mix of questions requires a good balance of clinical and radiological knowledge, mostly general but including ultrasound, computerised tomography and nuclear medicine. The layout of the book is convenient for checking of answers. Most unusually for a book of this sort, I found the disagreement with answers index very low, and on the whole rather enjoyed it. I can recommend it to all those preparing for final FRCR and to those, like myself, who need to be reminded of what we have forgotten.

But one question remains unanswered. What does the picture on the front cover mean? Is it, as one of my colleagues has suggested, a man-hole on the path to success for these authors?

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**Orthopaedics. The principles and Practice of Musculoskeletal Surgery**, S.P.F. Hughes. Pp. xii+1077, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1987. £125.

As the authors claim, this is a new textbook on orthopaedics and fractures. Their claim that there is a new approach to the subject matter is valid and indeed, the unfamiliar layout requires a reviewer to read the book thoroughly in order to appreciate how much information it contains (not necessarily where one would expect to find it) and to appreciate its strengths and weaknesses.

The authors have attempted to link 'basic sciences' with the presentation, diagnosis and treatment of the musculo-

skeletal system, in the process avoiding the traditional regional approach. This is pleasantly logical when reading through the book but makes it difficult to look up and find information on a single condition. The layout of the index does not help. For example, if one wished to look up fractures of the radius the index would not offer help under 'Fracture' or 'Radius'.

As a text book on the 'basic sciences' and principles of orthopaedics, I think this textbook is excellent and therefore ideal reading for postgraduates preparing for higher surgical examinations in orthopaedics. There are excellent and readable chapters on bone, cartilage, biomechanics, principles of prosthesis design, imaging and genetic factors - areas where more traditional textbooks are often a bit thin.

The more clinical sections of the book are a little patchy, showing perhaps the disadvantages of multiple contributions. I would have preferred a more systematic approach to fractures. Somehow traumatology lends itself more easily to a regional approach as shown by the chapter entitled 'The knee and other joint injuries' where the authors have been unable to resist such an approach. However, this is a matter of personal preference and should not detract from the several excellent contributions on trauma.

I would certainly recommend this textbook be bought for any departmental library and encourage my trainees to read it. As a more senior orthopaedic surgeon I would then be delighted to take it home at night to refresh my knowledge on many subjects which I ought not to have forgotten. It reads very well and I reviewed this long textbook with great pleasure.

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**Paediatric Infectious Diseases in Arab Countries**, edited by Abdelaziz Y. Elzouki. Wiley Medical Publications. Pp. xiv+293, illustrated. John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1987. £42.50.

Infectious disease remains a major factor affecting morbidity and mortality in children throughout the world. Three quarters of these infections are associated with diarrhoea or respiratory symptoms, and in Arab countries they cause 70% of deaths in early childhood, amongst a total of two million deaths per annum recorded under five years of age. This reflects a mortality rate of up to six times higher than seen in Sweden or Japan. The changing socio-economic circumstances of the Arab world provide an instructive insight into the transition in the pattern of diseases which is seen as rural communities evolve into affluent industrialised societies. This background has generated a book based on the proceedings of a conference held in Benghazi, the text covering the aetiology, the epidemiology and management of gastroenteritis, rheumatic fever, meningitis and neonatal infections, with more general sections on patterns of infection, immunisation and the use of antibiotics. The chapters are well referenced, and each section is followed by a series of recommendations for future practice.