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.

The section on diarrhoeal disease includes epidemiological studies from North Africa and reviews from European authors on rotavirus immunisation and the management of gastroenteritis, with particularly useful documentation of the beneficial effects of continuous feeding during acute diarrhoea. Accounts of the natural history of rheumatic fever in Kuwait, Libya and Iraq are set in the context of reviews of the increasing incidence of the disease in some parts of the world, with its varying clinical presentation in comparison with patients in temperate climates, there is little comment on management. The sections on meningitis comprise two chapters which highlight the disappointing reduction in mortality which has been seen over the last thirty years. A brief chapter on recent advances discusses antimicrobial therapy, particularly in the neonatal period. Parasitic disorders are discussed in individual chapters, these include hydatid disease, schistosomiasis and visceral leishmaniasis. There are more general chapters on immunocompetence and viral infections.

Most of the common and important infectious diseases are either preventable or treatable. Thus a key option is an emphasis on environmental hygiene and immunisation. This subject area is also reviewed together with a useful account of the reasons for immunisation failure. The book finishes with a discussion of antibiotic therapy, relating particularly to the role and use of aminoglycosides and co-trimoxazole. Although the book is primarily aimed at paediatricians working in Arab countries, infections remain a common problem in children all over the world and its contents will have relevance to child health workers everywhere.

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Rehabilitation in Rheumatology: the Team Approach, Anthony Clarke, Louise Allard and B. Braybrooks. Pp. 320, illustrated. Martin Dunitz, London, 1987. £19.95.

Do not let the title of this excellent book mislead you. Rather than a comprehensive account of the rehabilitation facilities available for patients with rheumatic disorders, this is a concise short text book of practical rheumatology. The authors begin by defining the size and scope of the problems of disability in the rheumatic diseases and there follow chapters on the presentation, diagnosis and management of these conditions which, of course, underpin the application of rehabilitation measures. The contributions of the individual members of the rehabilitation team are indicated throughout but it is quite clear who is the team captain. Accordingly the chapters on physiotherapy and occupational therapy are perhaps somewhat briefer than one would wish, indicating principles rather

than a more in-depth critical analysis of individual techniques which would have been useful in a book such as this. In contrast, drug treatment is more extensively covered, including useful specialist techniques such as epidural injections, guanethidine blocks for algodystrophy and phenol injections of motor points for the relief of spasticity. Finally, social aspects of disability are covered with useful appendices including the addresses of self help groups and disabled living centres. The text is well illustrated throughout with line drawings and excellent tables. Despite their necessarily small size most of the radiographs are useful although a few would have been improved by clearer labelling. The use of black and white photographs to illustrate subtle skin changes such as the heliotrope rash of dermatomyositis and the violaceous discolouration of the pinna in ochronosis were over-optimistic. Despite these minor criticisms this is a beautifully presented, relatively inexpensive rheumatology textbook, among the very best of its type. It will be invaluable to any general practice or hospital library and to all those who are involved in the treatment of rheumatic disorders.

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Systemic Inflammatory Disease and the Eye, W.J. Dinning. Pp. xii + 247, illustrated. Butterworth Scientific, Guildford, 1987. £30.

This is a splendid little book and is highly recommended for ophthalmologists, general physicians, postgraduates and medical students. The author is an ophthalmologist who understands internal medicine so his text is the eye as a mirror of systemic inflammation. His topics include sarcoidosis, Behçet's disease, Wegener's granulomatosis, polyarteritis and other vasculitides, lupus erythematosus, the arthropathies, psoriasis and infections. The line drawings are helpful but some of the photographs are drab. In this day and age it is a pity that economy forces an author to use black and white photographs when colour photography lends itself so well to the retina and iris. MRCP candidates are shown ocular disorders in various stages of the examination so they are well advised to include this monograph during pre-examination revision. Physicians worldwide embroiled in AIDS derive great diagnostic help from the ophthalmoscope and this book will put them on the right tracks by interpreting the signs of ocular inflammation. Medical students will understand and enjoy ophthalmology if they turn to this book before it is too late.

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