

medicine specialists from Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA. The editor, Dr J. Mark Elwood, must be congratulated on producing a volume which makes fascinating, informative, and easy reading, with such heterogeneous authorship.

Professor Rona MacKie contributes two chapters and states that the incidence of malignant melanoma has doubled in some countries in the past ten years, making malignant melanoma the most rapidly increasing malignancy after lung cancer in women; also of special interest to practising clinicians is the chapter by Professor Thomas Fitzpatrick and his team from Harvard on the identification of those at risk and the detection of precursor lesions in early melanomas. His diagnostic acronym Asymmetry, Border, Colour, Diameter, Elevation, adorns the front cover of the book.

Other chapters explore causation and pathogenesis, ethnic origin, exposure to sunlight, and important host factors such as benign and dysplastic naevi.

Melanoma and Naevi is compulsory and compulsive reading for all dermatologists, oncologists, and plastic surgeons, though the price may inhibit individual purchase.

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1200 Multiple Choice Questions in Pharmacology, Second edition, edited by R.W. Foster. Pp. ix + 177, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1986. £6.95.

The object of this book is to provide a source of ready made questions for use by examiners and to enable them to construct new questions. It also aims to provide candidates with practice for multiple choice examinations and to assess their own progress in learning pharmacology. All nine of the most commonly presented question forms and their general rubrics are demonstrated. The questions cover a wide range of topics in both the pre-clinical and clinical pharmacology syllabus although the use of this book will encourage students to maintain their knowledge of basic pharmacology until the final medical examination. The questions are mainly up-to-date involving current therapy and usage. This book is useful as far as it goes and I will recommend it to my students.

However, many students have difficulties with multiple choice questions because they are unable to grasp the nature of the rules regarding the marking of such questions and the need to optimise their choices in the true/false/don't know paradigm. A discussion of marking systems and optimising choices would enhance future editions. Although this information is available in other books on multiple choice question techniques, it would be very useful if it could be included in the next edition of this book.

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Multiple Sclerosis, by Bernie O'Brien. Pp. 64, illustrated. Office of Health Economics, London, 1987. £1.00.

This small book, No. 87, from the Office of Health Economics, is of the same excellent standard as previous titles in the series updating an earlier MS publication (OHE, 1975). Although the main aim is to 'examine the health service consequences of the disease in terms of resource utilisation in hospitals and general practitioner consultations', it also succeeds at the more familiar levels as well as with the main aim. The clinico-pathological introduction is done well. The three epidemiological sections cover England and Wales, international comparisons and 'clues to a cause?' The standard of the tables, graphs and maps is extremely good throughout and all provide excellent teaching material. The decision to include both Kurtzke's scales in full cannot be praised too highly. After all, the major basis to research into MS, as the author points out, is to define a homogeneous patient group and currently these are the only scales which seem to be accepted by investigators from different countries.

The discussions on treatment, health costs and also the future are equally well done. The references have been thoughtfully selected, a difficult task in this subject.

In summary, this is a superb little book to suit the needs of nearly everybody – and at £1.00 a copy there can be little excuse not to purchase one or more copies – the latter to ensure at least one copy stays on your shelf.

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Objectives for Care: Specifying Standards for Clinical Nursing, edited by G.D. Snowley & P.J. Nicklin. Pp. xiv + 77. Austen Cornish, London, 1987. £7.50.

In just over seventy pages this book attempts to list a set of nursing objectives for promoting individualized patient care based on an activities of daily living framework. That the editors have succeeded in distilling the array of information down into several statements under each of the main headings is noteworthy. However one is reminded of a statement in the introduction when considering the content and purpose of the book – 'what has been accomplished in preparing this book should not be measured in terms of its completion – the product – but by the quality and rigour of the debate – the process' (p. xii). It is a pity the reader is not party to this exchange because without it the book could be perceived as nothing more than a statement of the obvious.

However, this criticism would be missing the point and it would take away several of the book's strengths. Firstly, the authors have succeeded in linking an individualized patient care approach with the nursing process. They have produced core statements that will guide practitioners and learners to look more carefully at their daily practice. They have established a set of baseline statements and they have successfully demonstrated the differences between the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation phases of nursing care.