Yet there are certain areas where greater clarity would have been welcomed. Terms such as guidelines, objective, aim and clinical standard are used without prior definition and at times, it would seem, interchangeably. Secondly, it may be incorrect to assume that these guidelines will do away with the need for procedures as is stated in the opening paragraphs of the book. The two may be quite compatible so long as the practitioner knows when and how to use them. Examples of how the objectives are being used would have helped to clarify this. And third, there may be a danger that untutored staff will use the statements as individual goals for patients, thereby negating any advances that this publication obviously wishes to promote.

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Pain Control, by J. Latham. Pp. x+106. Austen Cornish, in assoc. with The Lisa Sainsbury Foundation, London, 1987. £6.50.

Jane Latham's book *Pain Control* reinforces the principle that to treat pain effectively, one must first understand the mechanisms of pain.

The preliminary chapters explain the anatomy and physiology of pain, and how pain theories have been developed over the last 300 years that have resulted in 'the gate theory' of pain. These chapters are a little complicated in structure, and I feel that little has been devoted to explaining the important role of the endogenous opiates.

Pain assessment must take into account the physical and psychological state of the patient, and the chapter on the psychological aspects of pain is excellent. A point that is not reinforced is that pain is a symptom. It is vital to diagnose the cause of the symptom since treating the cause appropriately may well be the best way to deal with the pain it is producing.

I am afraid the chapter on analgesics is a little disappointing. We still find analgesics are poorly described by many, and it must always be stated that analgesia must be prescribed correctly, giving regular doses to suppress pain. The author does not stress this point. This criticism may be a little unfair, since I feel this book is directed at persons who already have a knowledge of analgesic prescribing.

The use of the syringe driver, injection techniques for treating pain and transcutaneous nerve stimulation, are then presented in the final 3 chapters.

In summary, it is a useful short volume. It is directed to nurses: however, it is also a useful resource for any professional who treats pain. It is not a book for the 'complete beginner', since it is not a comprehensive book on pain control. However, it would certainly complement other articles and books on pain control and should stimulate the reader.

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Recent Advances in Medicine (20), edited by A.M. Dawson & G.M. Besser. Pp. ix+266, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1987. £19.95.

This volume, number 20 in the series, is the first under the editorship of Dr Dawson and Professor Besser. In their brief preface they pay tribute to Nigel Compston who had been Editor to the Series for 20 years, a tribute which very many will echo.

This volume lives up to the standard of its predecessors. It was the aim of the editors to produce a series of articles that would be of interest and intelligible to the generalist and most achieved that aim. Inevitably, there will be some which the individual reviewer will find dull. The article on the Psychopathology of Civil Disorder sounded interesting, but needs a lot of pruning. Anybody who can write 'however, the natural course of reactions for some individuals tends to chronicity' could do with a tough editor. Only one article was not really intelligible to this generalist, and that was the article by A.L. Harris on 'Neoplasia Oncogenes and Growth Factors'. Fortunately, Sikora and Waxman explained the matter much more clearly in their review of 'New therapeutic strategies in oncology'.

There are excellent articles on growth, gut infections, allergic lung disease, heart failure and Parkinson's disease. It was a pity that the article on organ transplantation did not include a section on marrow transplantation.

Things move so fast these days that it is inevitable that some of the articles will already seem behind the times: thus the article on AIDS was unable to include anything about the use of azidothymidine. However, this is a particularly good summary of the clinical aspects of the problem. It is a pity that it is marred by a distance between the table of the new classification and the text (arabic numbers in the table, Roman numerals in the text; small numbers in the table, letters in the text). The book also includes a useful section on interventional radiology.

All in all, this book can be recommended. The efforts by authors to include modern views on the scientific basis of their subjects was particularly successful. The references are most helpful. This book should be in every hospital library.

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Recollections and Reflections, by Douglas Black. Pp. x+132, illustrated. Cambridge University Press, London, 1987. £14.95.

Sir Douglas Black explains at the outset why he eschewed autobiography in favour of arranging his memories by theme rather than timing. The product is a series of fascinating essays in which his experience in the practice of medicine together with his contributions to its progress are interwoven with perceptions and insights gained while he held a sequence of distinguished appointments: professor of medicine, chief scientist to the DHSS, and President of the Royal College of Physicians.

As a young man, the author believed in the value of changing his occupation, or at least his post, at intervals, before becoming stale. Enthusiasm, let alone opportunities for change and challenge usually fade in mid-life, but Sir Douglas proves a remarkable exception to the generality. The penultimate chapter of the book is headed 'a retired life?'. The question mark itself reflects his gentle sense of humour. Early in his 'retirement' he became president of four organisations which included the British Medical Association and Medical Protection Society; he has fortunately continued in this habit, and his life remains both productive and rewarding.

Insight, scholarly precision and dry wit are mentioned by the publisher, as hallmarks of the author. But other attributes illumine his approach, for instance, to medical ethics: honesty, modesty, personal responsibility, common sense and pragmatism are among those which contribute to a personal formulation of what he terms 'situation ethics'.

This is the second book published in a new venture called 'The Memoir Club', by the *British Medical Journal*. The books are well-designed; they look and feel right. In this volume, outward aesthetic satisfaction is abundantly matched by the riches which lie between the covers.

Buy this book, read it, keep it and re-read it; recommend colleagues to follow suit; beware of lending your copy.

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Sarcoidosis and Other Granulomatous Disorders, edited by C. Grassi, G. Rizzato & E. Pozzi. Pp. xviii + 774. Excerpta Medica, Amsterdam, New York, Oxford, Elsevier Science Publishers, 1988.

In a leading article earlier this year,¹ we drew attention to the 11th World Congress on Sarcoidosis and Other Granulomatous Disorders held in Milan in September 1987 and we predicted that Elsevier Science Publishers would publish the transactions within six months. These Proceedings have now appeared punctually on time to the great credit of the editors, publishers and, of course, numerous contributors. It is a rich handsome volume to be commended particularly because of the incredibly short interval from the spoken word at the Conference to this publication; it is all fresh, new and exciting. There are sections on immunology and pathology, epidemiology, impairment of function, clinical aspects, assessment of

sarcoid activity and treatment. There are panel discussions, invited lectures, and a round table on diffuse panbronchiolitis. There is a good index of authors and subject index and also a most helpful list of names and addresses of all participants, arranged alphabetically from Argentina to Yugoslavia. This means that there is something for everyone. Sarcoidologists will find an in-built Christmas card address list. Chest physicians will learn about panbronchiolitis and summertime hypersensitivity pneumonitis in addition to sarcoidosis. Immunologists and allergists will revel in the wide interchange between the various cellular components forming the antigen-antibody battlefield and the chemical mediators influencing them. Pathologists are able to follow a pathway from nonspecific alveolitis to granuloma formation and on to endstage fibrosis.

The Congress was organised superbly well and these Proceedings set a seal of excellence on our sum total of knowledge until the XII World Congress which will be held in 1991 in Kyoto, Japan.

Reference

1. James, D.G. Sarcoidosis around the world. *Postgrad Med J* 1988, **64**: 177-179.

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Uveitis - a Colour Manual of Diagnosis and Treatment, by J.J. Kanski. Pp. 114, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, Durban, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1987. £29.50.

This work is an excellent resumé of all the familiar and some lesser known varieties of uveitis. Even as a colour manual, the illustrations are of an exceptionally high standard and indeed we have come to accept no less from the author's other works.

It is to be highly recommended but complete as it is, clinicians should beware of trying to find within it the cause of all their cases of uveitis. It is not a claim the author would make, knowing as all ophthalmologists do, that the aetiology of most cases is uncertain.

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