Book Reviews

Anaesthesia Review 5, edited by Leon Kaufman. Pp. 344. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1988. £17.50.

This, the 5th Edition in the series, maintains the very high standard of the series both in interest and presentation. It is true that the relevance of some of the subjects to anaesthesia is only just being appreciated by many anaesthetists for the first time but now that we are beginning to understand the relevance of the immunological responses of anaesthetics it is pertinent for us to have the opportunity to consider a review such as that by Peter Simpson on immunology and anaesthesia. Similar arguments can be used to support the inclusion of the chapters on physiology and treatment of cerebral ischaemia and on the sites of action of opiates in the production of analgesia. It seems that no textbook is now complete without a well written article about adult respiratory distress syndrome in which Gareth Jones figures as an author. While not all the chapters contain new and exciting information, they are all well written and act to update or to remind the reader about so many of the fascinating aspects of anaesthesia. The relevance of some of the interpretations of medicine relevant to anaesthesia and in the 'stop press' section is not immediately clear but Leon Kaufman has selected his topics wisely and the importance of these to our practice will all become clear in due course. *Anaesthesia Review 5* maintains the high standards of its predecessors and I can recommend that all anaesthetists, both those who are trained and those in training, should read it and remember most of it.

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Auditory Disorders: A Manual for Clinical Evaluation, edited by Susan & James Jerger. Pp. xvii + 187. Taylor and Francis, London, New York, Philadelphia, 1988. £15.00.

This book provides an unusual approach to the clinical evaluation of auditory disorders, which reflects the non-clinical practice of audiology in America. The book is comprised of numerous case reports, which are grouped together in chapters covering individual otological diagnoses. Little emphasis is given to the history and/or clinical examination of the specific disorders, while various combinations of audiometric test results are presented in great detail.

In this respect, the book would be of value to audiological scientists, otologists and audiological physicians, particularly those in training who have a major interest in audiological diagnosis and yet frequently do not have exposure to audiology clinics, where detailed audiometric investigations are carried out. It is, therefore, an omission that the various audiological test procedures applied in the case histories are not described, explained or evaluated. Thus, a high degree of knowledge is required if the detailed audiometric results are to be fully understood. A further criticism must be that the

reference lists are not up-to-date and, perhaps, have not been revised since this book was originally published, in 1980.

In conclusion, this book provides valuable insight into the interpretation of detailed audiometric tests, but would be of interest only to clinicians with a major interest in audiological diagnosis.

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Humors, Hormones and The Mind, Bernard T. Donovan. Pp. viii + 291, illustrated. Macmillan, Stockton Press, Basingstoke, 1988. £14.95.

Who reads books? Not so trite a question as it seems, as any astute publisher *must* answer this query before he markets another new offering, although I wonder what answer the publishers obtained for the present volume. In this review of the relation between hormones and behaviour, Bernard Donovan has succinctly and expertly characterized the chaotic state of current neuroendocrinology, realising that this field is likely to have a more explosive impact on our lives in the next century than several dozen more Apollo or Vostok voyages. In each section the historical introductions are terse, but informative, and the language crisp and mercifully free of the ponderous neo-Teutonic style characteristic of clinical science from across the Atlantic. The thesis that the classical humors have now returned, in the guise of neuropeptides, is at once surprising and compelling: as a brief guide to the physiological psychology of emotions and behaviour the book is succinct and 'well-bred'. And yet ... I was left wondering who the real readers are likely to be. The 'two cultures' live (apart), and I cannot see the average non-scientific professional browsing through this volume. I would like to think that physicians outside neuroendocrinology would take this book to bed, or on their holidays, but I fear that this volume is too specialized for the non-specialist, and too brief for the specialist. To return to my original question, I believe the publishers were not clear enough in their own minds who they thought would read this book. I hope I am wrong, as erudition combined with a clear mind is in short supply, but I feel that behavioural scientists are more likely to refer to this volume than practising physicians.

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An Introduction to Neuropathology, J. Hume Adams & D.I. Graham. Pp. 309. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1988. £29.95.

This is a most commendable small book on a very large subject. It is well produced, nicely illustrated and clearly written. An introduction includes something on post mortem and histological techniques. The second chapter is entitled