new-born babies who do not require admission to the intensive or special care unit. The manual starts logically with definitions, statistics and a useful chapter on the effects of maternal illness, bad habits and therapy on the new-born child. This is followed by statements on the care of the baby in the delivery suite, including resuscitation, examination of the new-born, routine post-natal care and neonatal screening. There is a highly practical chapter on infant feeding, in which the author pulls no punches in expressing his own opinion. The remainder of the book deals with problems which are likely to arise in the post-natal ward, including topics such as care for the small normal pre-term and normal small-for-dates babies and problems associated with infection, jaundice, post-maturity and malformations which are likely to be seen on the post-natal ward.

The strength of this manual is that it is a highly practical statement based on the personal experience of the author. It is written in a very clear didactic form with touches of humour. I am sure all those who are responsible for the care of babies in post-natal wards, including obstetric SHOs, general practitioners and midwives, will find this book invaluable. I suspect it will be just as popular as its companion *A Manual of Neonatal Intensive Care*. In my opinion it certainly deserves to succeed.

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On the Demon Drink, By Jancis Robinson. Pp. 208. Mitchell Beazley, London, 1988. £9.95.

Journalists like Ms Robinson – and the drinks industry – are fond of using the expression ‘anti-alcohol lobby’ to stigmatize those of us who campaign against alcohol abuse. The reason becomes clear half way through the present volume:

‘The temperance movement began as . . . a group of very sensible and concerned individuals who urged moderation, certainly not abstinence’. So it is necessary to reassure Ms Robinson and her allies that most of us enjoy a drink too and are certainly not bent on resurrecting prohibition. Our message, like hers, is moderation, though it is not always clear what she means by this. To be fair she is not above chastising her fellow drinkers, the government and the drinks industry in an attempt to present a balanced view of the great alcohol debate.

One of her chief obsessions is liver cirrhosis which recurs like a *leit-motiv* throughout the text. This is unfortunate because it gives undue prominence to this and indeed other physical complications of alcohol excess. Nor is it true to say that physical damage ‘usually predates’ dependence; well over 80% of our most severely dependent clients have no serious physical disease. Such concentration on physical illness gives a very one-sided view, called by those most critical of doctors ‘the medical model’. It ignores the enormous amount of social, psychological, economic and financial distress suffered not only by the individual but by families, friends and colleagues, which is the real burden of overindulgence. Apart from drink driving, which she could hardly avoid, Ms Robinson says nothing about these important aspects; perhaps she is saving them for another book.

A recurrent theme of ‘the anti-alcohol lobby’ is the need to educate professionals and public about alcohol. In spite of a good deal of repetition, some contradiction, and occasional superficiality we should welcome *On the Demon Drink* as a competent, informative, journalistic and thoroughly readable attempt to do just that. If only doctors would read . . .

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Books Received

Allergy to Bee Stings and its Prevention, L.R. Croft. Pp. 104, illustrated. Elmwood Medical Monographs, Chorley, 1988. £12.95.

Annual Review of Genetics, Vol. 22, edited by Allan Campbell, Bruce S. Baker and Ira Herskowitz. Pp. ix + 704, illustrated. Annual Reviews Inc., Palo Alto, California, 1988. \$34.00 (USA & Canada); \$38.00 (elsewhere). Price includes postage and handling.

Hydrocephalus Shunt Infections, Roger Bayston. Pp. ix + 160, illustrated. Chapman and Hall, London, 1989. £22.50.

Loss and Bereavement, The Lisa Sainsbury Foundation Series, Bridget Cook and Shelagh G. Phillips. Pp. viii + 90, illustrated. Austen Cornish in association with The Lisa Sainsbury Foundation, London, 1988. £6.50 (incl. p & p).

Ultrastructural Pathology of the Cell and Matrix: a Text and Atlas of Physiological and Pathological Alterations in the Fine Structure of Cellular and Extracellular Components. Two volumes, 3rd edition. Feroze N. Ghadially. Pp. xxiii + 1340, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1988. £25.00.