book. The chapter on radiology is disappointing. It is difficult to see how Dr Rees could have covered the subject in the same degree of detail that he has the pulmonary physiology section within the bounds of this book. Nevertheless, a few more paragraphs on basic principles and interpretation of overlying shadows would have been helpful.

In summary, this is an excellent book for reference, and of value to medical people from the student through to the consultant in respiratory medicine; but it was very ambitious, and perhaps a mistake, to attempt to include radiology within its compass.

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Medicine for the Practising Physician. Second edition, J. Willis Hurst. Pp xxxiv + 1857. Butterworths, Boston, London, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1988. £65.00.

It is an impossible task for any one reviewer to assess how complete and up to date are the many contributions in the major textbooks of medicine. This is particularly so with this example of the species which includes among its 25 major sections ones on gynaecology, otolaryngology and psychiatry. Who would expect a whole page on masturbation? However, the high standards of those chapters covering topics with which I am familiar (which do not include masturbation) indicate that the factual content of this textbook bears comparison with its longer established competitors.

The book owes much to Larry Weed with all 737 chapters arranged uniformly under the headings—criteria for diagnosis, clinical manifestations, plans (diagnostic, therapeutic and educational), follow-up and discussion. The latter includes the basic science, natural history, epidemiology and cost containment. It enables the reader to delve further into a topic beyond the information needed for everyday patient care. References are provided at the end of each chapter for further reading. Consideration of the economic consequences of what doctors do, does not generally feature in textbooks of medicine. It is, however, particularly timely and relevant to trends in the delivery of health care. The authors all hail from North America but this does not detract from the value of the book in this regard or others for readers in other parts of the world.

There is a lively mix in both the sections and the subsequent chapters of bodily systems and pathology and of specific diseases and presenting symptoms respectively. This enables the reader to use the book at different degrees of resolution of his patient's clinical problem. The index seems satisfactory for cross reference, from say the chapter on breathlessness to those on the diseases in which it is found. *Medicine for the Practising Physician* provides relevant practical information in a well organized manner and lives up to the title and aspirations of its editor-in-chief in the preface. It is warmly recommended.

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Molecular Basis of Inherited Disease, K.E. Davies and A. Read. Pp x + 77, illustrated. IRL press, Oxford, Washington DC, 1988. £5.95 U.K.—\$11.95 U.S.

Genetic technology is developing so fast that it is difficult for someone outside the laboratory to keep informed, especially as it is often accompanied by language that is unfamiliar and arbitrary. This essentially practical book dispels the confusion. It is aimed at students and researchers, but its usefulness goes further than them. Within its 77 pages, it describes current DNA techniques and defines terms such as introns, exons, HTF islands, jumping libraries and zoo blots. It does not explain how the term 'restriction enzyme' arose, nor the structure of chromosomal or mitochondrial DNA, but it is reasonable to assume some knowledge on the part of the reader. There are clear accounts of techniques such as *situ* hybridization, chromosome sorting, linkage analysis, polymerase chain reaction, and pulsed-field gel electrophoresis. The presentation is excellent, with at least one diagram on every page, and clinical examples. For instance, the authors summarise the methods used for detecting submicroscopic deletions in patients with Prader-Willi syndrome, and the sequence of events which led to the recognition of the DMD gene product. Accounts such as these are necessarily brief, but they serve as a useful introduction to the principles involved. There is no critical assessment of the relative values of the different techniques, but this is a minor criticism of a book which aims to be concise, clear and cheap. It will surely be a useful book for physicians, surgeons and general practitioners in addition to the students of medicine or genetics for whom it is intended.

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Paediatric Audiology: 0–5 Years, edited by Barry McCormick. Pp. 354, illustrated. Taylor & Francis, London, New York, Philadelphia, 1988. £36.00 (Cloth)—£16.00 (Paper).

This book will be welcomed. It is edited by Barry McCormick whose own contribution to this field is outstanding and whose pre-eminence is well recognized. Dr McCormick has assembled a group of excellent contributors among whom are such names as John Bamford, Denzil Brooks and Philip Evans. They cover the field of paediatric audiology in the early years in great detail but also with a clear simplicity which will appeal to the many different specialists who have to deal with children in this age group. The initial chapter on epidemiology and is particularly valuable at a time when screening tests of every sort are continuously demanded by pressure groups. These groups, having won a government or health service commitment often disperse to other things leaving the details to those less interested or active. Too often the purpose of screening is little-understood and indeed the action required by the findings cannot be applied.

The book covers the more difficult technical aspects of audiology, such as electric response audiometry, oto-acoustic emissions and hearing aids with clarity, completeness and

expertise and the better known clinical techniques are reviewed critically and brought up to date.

The fact that it reads so well leaves us with a wish for more. Could there have been greater discussion of aetiology? More detailed consideration given to management? But obviously we would then be demanding a different sort of book and the specific purpose of this one may be lost.

Dr McCormick's book has been needed for a long time. It is important and should be required reading for anyone who deals with children, whether paediatricians, general practitioners, ENT surgeons, community doctors or teachers and speech therapists.

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Student Psychiatry Today, Robert I. Cohen and Jerome J. Hart. Pp. viii + 478. Heinemann Medical Books, Oxford, London, Melbourne, Auckland, 1988. £17.50.

This is an excellent student textbook. The authors state that medical students with no previous knowledge of psychiatry are their intended audience, and the book fulfils their needs

perfectly. Chapters are arranged along standard lines, with useful additions such as an individual chapter devoted to community psychiatry. Material is well set out, with key-words highlighted, and the style is eminently clear. An extensive glossary provides definitions and descriptions of commonly used terms. The authors cover controversial areas well, and their approach is always eclectic, never dogmatic. The full spectrum of psychiatry, from organic to psychodynamic, is equally well covered.

The book is elementary, and is unlikely to be suitable for postgraduates, but might interest non-psychiatrists wishing to brush up on their basic psychiatry. As with any book there are minor criticisms. It seems unreasonable, in 1988, not to have at least a few paragraphs devoted to the neuropsychiatric complications of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Some of the chapters, by virtue of the condensation of information verge on being boring, and the writing style lacks flair at times.

On balance, I warmly recommend this book, which will certainly go on the approval reading list for our medical students.

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Books Received

Antenatal and Perinatal Causes of Handicap, N. Patel. Pp. x + 240. Bailliere Tindall, London, Philadelphia, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, 1988. £15.00.

Gastroenterology, Johannes Bircher. Pp. vii + 528. Bailliere Tindall, London, Philadelphia, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto, 1988. £15.00.

Instructions for Patients. Fourth edition, H. Winter Griffith. Pp. xiii + 369. W.B. Saunders, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Kent, 1989. £31.95.

Learning About Aids - Exercises and materials for adult education about HIV infection and AIDS, Peter Aggleton, Hilary Homans, Jan Mojsa, Stuart Watson and Simon Watney. Pack includes—AIDS: Scientific and Social Issues. A Resource for Health Education—136 pages. Learning about AIDS exercises—Over 40 exercises and 23 worksheets in loose-leaf format in sturdy wallet. An Introductory Brochure—12 pages. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1989. The pack costs £19.95 and book, which is available separately, £6.95.

Les Grandes Voies Lymphatiques Abdomino-Thoraco-Cervicales. 3rd edition, Prof. A. Dos Santos Ferreira. Pp. 5–99. Centre D'Etudes Anatomofonctionnelles D'Angiologie, 1988. Price not given.

On Call Principles and Protocols, Jean Gillies, Shane Marshall and John Ruedy. Pp. xxi + 330. W.B. Saunders Company, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Kent, 1989. £12.95.

Rush University Review of Surgery, Steven G. Economou, Steven D. Bines, Daniel J. Deziel and Thomas R. Witt. Pp. xviii + 426. W.B. Saunders, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Kent, 1988. £16.95.

Study Guide and Review Manual of Human Embryology, Keith L. Moore. Pp. xi + 247. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Kent, 1988. £10.00.

Trauma, edited by Stephen Westaby. Pp. xiii + 414, illustrated. Heinemann Medical Books, Oxford, 1989. £65.00.