This book emphasizes that the coping ability of past experience of separation and losses in childhood, will have a bearing on how the adult individual will cope and relate to others in bereavement.

The necessity for the various types of grieving is covered, and much help and advice is given to carers, practical matters as well as therapeutic help. The book also points out the necessity for support for carers, especially those working with the dying and terminally ill.

This book is condensed but comprehensive and well recommended, giving information and instruction for all those who come into contact with bereavement and loss.

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This is a jolly good little book. Not every general practitioner will rush out to buy it for himself – but it is a book which should be on the shelf of every training general practice library. The author is a good communicator and the first chapter should be essential reading for the trainee in his first month in general practice. It is refreshing to read a book on radiology where the author is so enthusiastic about direct access by general practitioners to the X-ray department and positively invigorating to read that there is no reason why general practitioners should not also have access to nuclear medicine investigations!

The book covers every aspect of radiology that could be encountered in general practice but its small size, by necessity, means that each subject is dealt with very briefly. However, this information is clearly presented, to the point, and leaves the reader in no doubt as to the value of the investigation and its relation to clinical findings. It is a pity that the excellent chapter on the ‘Breast,’ due to careless binding, finds itself in the chapter on ‘Imaging in the Eighties.’

This book fulfils its aim, ensuring that the patient is prepared for whatever examination awaits him and that the general practitioner is equipped to get the best out of his local X-ray department.

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In a condition as unpredictable and variable as multiple sclerosis it is probably inevitable that a plethora of claims will be made for a wide variety of therapies. In addition, multiple sclerosis seems to encourage the formation of self-help groups and societies where unorthodox and unproven treatment is promulgated. Most neurologists are, therefore, only too familiar with being questioned by sufferers from this condition about treatments that the doctor has never heard of. This book is a valuable source of reference to provide answers to questions of this type.

The International Federation of Multiple Sclerosis Societies and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society of the United States have formed a ‘Therapeutic Claims Committee’ of distinguished neurologists from both sides of the Atlantic. Their Chairman, Professor Sibley, has written the second edition of this book.

It deals first in terms suitable for the layman with current knowledge of the nature, incidence and course of the disease. Treatment is then considered starting with a balanced appraisal of the difficulties of assessing the efficacy of treatment in this condition, and continuing with an account of the accepted methods of management of the acute exacerbation, and treatment designed to prevent progression of the disease. Symptomatic treatment is discussed and, finally, a large number of unorthodox methods of treatment are considered. This section is perhaps the most useful for the practising doctor because he can there find a description of any scientific assessment of even the most obscure forms of treatment.

This volume should be accessible as a reference work for all physicians who treat multiple sclerosis.

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It is difficult to short-list and select at interview the best doctors for ones own local vocational training scheme, from the many excellent candidates who apply. How much harder, then, for even the brightest house officer or junior SHO to successfully negotiate the transition via one of more than 200 vocational training schemes available to his or her chosen practice.

The Directory of Vocational Training Schemes for General Practice offers a welcome helping hand to the would be trainee. It begins with an historical perspective of the development of general practice and the subsequent establishment of the trainee practitioner scheme in 1948. The continued progression towards the present model is unfolded. It goes on to describe the regulations which govern the certification of necessary experience and the role of the JCPGTGP. It includes a section on ‘How to apply for a practice vacancy’ and one on partnership agreement, which highlights the problems faced by the new junior partner. It reminds us that there are medical colleagues in the present ‘sellers’ market who are not slow to exploit the situation. Happily, they are a minority and the book moves on to the MRCP examination, which may be viewed as the ‘pinnacle’ of vocational training and is the admission to membership of the College. Finally, there is a description of every vocational training scheme.

This is a valuable and useful handbook for general practice trainees.

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