

Book Reviews

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

This is indispensable literature for any academic department with a research interest in basic genetics. It has, up to now, been the best annual review of genetics, and Volume 22 maintains its position as being required reading. It is an up-date of what the editors regard as the forefront of current research, and it is therefore selective and not necessarily medically orientated. There are, however, reviews of the current biology of Duchenne muscular dystrophy and the molecular biology of PKU, but it should be noted that only 3 out of the 22 chapters have immediate clinical relevance.

Having said that, no-one could fail to learn from Ray White and his co-authors about the strategy employed in localizing genes to specific areas, and those of us who know little about walking the genome, finding what one is looking for, or even understanding the jargon of the molecular geneticists, would find this chapter helpful.

Some chapters, i.e. the ones on Maize Development, and Tomato Genetics, have little medical significance, but if we are moving into the area of gene therapy and insertion of genes into experimental animals, i.e. mice, in order to provoke malformations that occur in humans, then even the general reader will need to know about transgenic mice.

This is a book to dip into and have in the University Library, where I fear clinicians will not see it very often as their laboratory colleagues will certainly want frequent access to it.

This volume is highly recommended.

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Essential Radiology in Head Injury, D. Mok and L. Kreef. Pp. 215, illustrated. Heinemann Professional Publishing, Oxford, 1988. £35.00.

Interpretation of skull radiographs in accident and emergency medicine is difficult even for the most experienced radiologists. There are many normal variations which can be interpreted as fractures and there are many subtle signs which can be overlooked or not accorded their true importance. Furthermore, the jobs of sorting normal and abnormal, and then of deciding what course of action to be taken falls on a casualty officer who frequently does not have expert help immediately available when confronted with a skull radiograph.

This book is designed to help in these areas. It calls itself an atlas and there are many illustrations of the different types of fracture that are seen in the skull and face. However, it goes much further than that because it describes normal anatomy, it discusses radiographic positioning and artefacts, and many of the commoner normal variants are illustrated. There is a

short, but adequate chapter on fractures in children.

Although most of the book is about the interpretation of plain films CT scans are given where they help to explain the text or illustrate trauma not otherwise detectable. The quality of these varies because the progress of CT scanning has been so rapid but they are relevant to the text.

Indications for skull radiography vary from one hospital to another so it is helpful that the Royal College of Radiologists guidelines for skull radiography in mild head injuries are presented in the first chapter. The second chapter gives advice on how to view the films and what radiographic techniques are used with a discussion of additional views. The facial area has been included in a short section and the way in which pathological processes, previous surgery, and foreign bodies may cause difficulties is discussed at the end.

It is a comprehensive book which is aimed at a wide readership. The radiographers in the Accident and Emergency Department and the casualty officers found it a very readable book, liking it for the balance between text and illustrations. It comes between the comprehensive manual on radiology of the skull and the handbook that covers head injury in a few pages. The price is not excessive considering the number of illustrations and importance of accurate interpretation of skull radiographs in head injury. It should be a well used book in the Accident and Emergency Department and in the Main Diagnostic Radiology Department where trainee radiologists will find it most useful. It is recommended as a reference book for both these departments.

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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.

This pack comprises a book and a series of exercises and worksheets which assist health educators to run courses. The book provides an admirable, succinct and up-to-date summary of information and, read alone, would be a useful reference for many medical paramedical workers.

However the intention of the pack is that learning should occur using audience participation as a catalyst. This intention is fulfilled by the programme of exercises, including role playing. The pack is particularly valuable for health care educators who wish to use this mode of learning/teaching. The suggested exercises are well structured with aims, what you need, what to do, and likely outcomes of each exercise. Some suggested role playing exercises are very valuable in