

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

that they give insight into the varied problems that HIV can pose: how, for example, can someone negotiate for safe sex in a new relationship, or even more problematic, for the first time in an established relationship?—my wife would certainly want a few questions answered if I tried to introduce safe sex into our relationship!

It is remarkable that such exercises are not used for other diseases or similar morbidity and mortality, and this begs the question why should HIV be handled differently (a question not addressed in the exercises)? The reason why HIV requires such attention does not seem rational and must therefore be irrational and, I suspect, is based upon the totally irrational phenomenon of sex that created and therefore unites us all: other diseases can be treated in isolation, whereas HIV involves inter-personal relationships in a special way. This irrationality underlies the important question addressed several times in the exercises 'How do you *feel* (my italics) about this?' and the benefit from this scheme of education is that it encourages us to face up to the problem that all of us may have with feelings about our own and others' behaviour and/or sexuality. We cannot overcome such feelings by reason alone: the most we can do is to compensate for these feelings by gaining insight—and participating in the exercises will ensure that this will occur.

The exercises also explore problems associated with drug use (or should it be drug abuse?) and HIV. Strangely, haemophiliacs get left out of the exercises; they too have feelings, both rational and irrational, about the behaviour of those whose blood products they received.

Overall an impressive package; many doctors would benefit from this pack if they could learn to minimise our convenient tendency towards scientific detachment and concentration on study of disease processes rather than concentrating and the caring for people who have diseases.

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The MRCGP Study Book, Second edition, E. Gambrill, A. Moulds, J. Fry, D. Brooks. Pp. viii + 187. Butterworths, London; Update-Siebert Publications, Guildford, Surrey, 1988. £14.95.

In the seven years since this book was first published, vocational training has become compulsory and many more trainees are sitting the MRCGP examination. In the absence of anything better trainees see the exam as proof of having successfully completed vocational training and as an essential aid to achieving a 'good partnership'.

In spite of continuing debate within and outside the College, it seems unlikely that the examination will change in the near future. The four authors of this book are all FRCGPs and have been closely associated with the existing examination either as examiners and/or course organisers.

After an introduction to the structure and function of the examination, the authors discuss the exam part by part. Each section of this book explains in detail one part of the examination and gives hints on examination technique. Each section concludes with worked examples and model answers. The last section contains recommendations on a work plan, a guide to further reading and three pages of facts and figures

that candidates are urged to memorize.

Whatever one thinks of the College and its examination (and as a reprieved North East Thames trainer I have my own personal views) trainees will want the qualification and this book can certainly help them to achieve it.

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Occupational Therapy in Mental Health, edited by Derek W. Scott and Noomi Katz. Pp. viii + 222. Taylor & Francis, London, New York and Philadelphia, 1988. Price not given.

This book is a welcome addition to the limited number of publications dealing specifically with the practical application of occupational therapy to this treatment area. It highlights the wide range of approaches and methods of practice utilized by the occupational therapist, which include practical activities, specific skills and counselling services, to fulfill the therapist's primary concern with the provision of 'active' treatment regimes.

The book addresses problems encountered by the occupational therapist in direct relationship to his/her clientele. It also refers to the sole occupational therapist working in a small psychiatric unit within a large general hospital, and indicates the importance of communicating her approaches effectively to general medical staff. It does not adequately cover the relationship of the occupational therapist with the rest of the treatment team. This is of importance as other disciplines extend their skills, for example, psychiatric nursing staff now have training in group-leadership.

Many occupational therapy departments are understaffed. This places constraints upon the practical skills the occupational therapist is physically able to offer. The book does not mention the relative importance of different techniques when this situation occurs. For instance, does the occupational therapist concentrate upon fulfilling his/her more traditional role of organizing practical activity groups, or does he/she continue to develop specialized areas, for example, family therapy and psychodrama?

It does not discuss research enough. This should be of importance if the profession is to progress into the future with confidence.

The book does give a general insight of the profession working in mental health, complemented by extensive appendices for further reading, and can therefore be recommended to both students and qualified staff.

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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. Volumes 1 and 2, 3rd edition, Feroze N. Ghadially. Pp. xxiii + 1340, illustrated. Butterworths, London. Boston, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1988. £25.00.

This comprehensive compendium of ultrastructural path-