

Postgraduate Medical Journal

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The **Postgraduate Medical Journal** is published monthly on behalf of the Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine by the Scientific & Medical Division, Macmillan Press Ltd.

Postgraduate Medical Journal publishes original papers on subjects of current clinical importance and welcomes review articles with extensive, up-to-date bibliographies as guides to further reading. Several symposia are published each year, each devoted to a single subject and written by specialists in different disciplines. Most issues include authoritative current surveys of clinical problems, well documented reports of cases of particular interest, and book reviews. An international Postgraduate Diary is also included each month.

The Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine was founded by a group of London consultants after the First World War to assist postgraduates, particularly those coming to London from the Commonwealth, to pursue their studies. The Fellowship first published the **Postgraduate Medical Journal** to give information about lectures, conferences and courses and to provide a monthly review of all branches of medicine.

The Journal is covered by *Current Contents*, *Biological Abstracts*, *ASCA*, *ISI/BIOMED*, *Index Medicus*, *Excerpta Medica* and *Science Citation Index*.

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Manuscripts and all editorial correspondence, including books for review should be sent to: The Editor, Postgraduate Medical Journal, 6 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB, UK. Tel: 01-935 5556. Fax: 01-224 3219. From 6 May 1990 Tel: 071-935 5556, Fax: 071-224 3219. A 'Notice to Contributors' is usually published on the inside back cover of each issue. The Editor reserves the right to make changes which may clarify or condense papers where this is considered desirable.

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Signs' and other new topics include 'How to Insert an intravenous Cannula (and what to do if you fail)'.

The majority of the book is devoted to a brief description of different diseases and practical guidelines on how to cope with medical conditions and emergencies. Most topics are covered clearly and concisely, with a sensible approach to management.

There are some inevitable errors and omissions and the authors recognize this by including a readers' comment card. Mine will point out that pruritus is spelled pruritis throughout, that tactile vocal fremitus is mentioned more than once but not explained, and that abdominal paracentesis is not mentioned at all.

Scattered through the book are some admirable aphorisms—'work for your patients, not your consultant', 'have a high index of suspicion and a low reading thermometer (for hypothermia)', 'always assess your patient's inhaler technique. Omitting to do so may be as effective as forgetting to write the prescription'.

I recommend this edition to all final year medical students and house officers. It fits neatly into the pocket of a white coat and has a cover which is easily wiped clean!

J.R. Cove-Smith
South Cleveland Hospital,
Middlesborough, Cleveland TS4 3BW.

Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Michael S. Kramer. Pp. xii + 286 Springer-Verlag, Berlin Heidelberg, New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, 1989. DM 76.

Michael Kramer asks in his preface why a further book on Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics is needed when there is already a vast number on the market. This is a very readable book with easy to see paper and print but there are a number of problems with it.

In these days of computers it is surprising that no

reference is made to any suitable computers or programmes. Perhaps the author thinks this is best left to the 'expert' but many doctors wish to work on their own statistics and some advice would be useful. The author sets the same sort of problems as many other statisticians have in other books—with the same resulting confusion. It can be confusing for the reader to spend some time on normal distributions and the importance of normalising a distribution when there is no advice on how to demonstrate whether a distribution is normal or at least normal enough to use.

The place of epidemiology in clinical medicine is this book's particular emphasis—not just to inform on possibilities of aetiology, but to judge which is the optimum treatment for an individual. The author seems to imagine that the results of a clinical trial could be used for the management of an individual patient if probability theorem is applied. This is unlikely because of the nature of recruitment for such trials. For instance the MRC Trial on Hypertension chose patients from general practitioners who had an accurate age/sex register. The population studied was not diabetic and had no previous history of myocardial ischaemia, and also tended to be from a higher social class. The results, therefore, need very careful handling if they are to be extrapolated to other patient groups.

Personally I disliked the alternate use of 'he' and 'she'. I know this is to conform to publishers wishes but I found myself 'stumbling' on the text, in order to refer back to see if it was a particular 'he' or 'she' that was being talked about.

Finally the cost of the book seems excessive when there are others available which are cheaper.

A.C. Burden
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Books Received

The Biological Basis of Disease—Selected papers by P.R.J. Burch. Edited by M.S. Chesters & J.E. Burch. Pp. 280, illustrated. Leeds University Press, Leeds, 1990. £14.95, \$25 paperback.

Cardiology (Mainstream Medicine), R.G. Charles and A.J. Marshall. Pp. ix + 449, illustrated. Heinemann Medical Books, Oxford, 1990. £20.00 paperback.

Cellular Variation and Adaptation in Cancer. Biological Basis and Therapeutic Consequences, Michael Woodruff. Pp. ii + 135, illustrated. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1990. £15.00 Hardback.

Churchill's Illustrated Medical Dictionary, Pp. 2120, illustrated. Cased. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, 1989. £19.95.

Human Growth After Birth. Fifth edition, David Sinclair, illustrated. Pp. ix + 259, Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Tokyo, 1990. Paperback £12.50.

Illustrated Guide to the Central Nervous System, K. Sugiura, G.A. Robinson and D.G. Stuart. Pp. 160, illustrated. Ishiyaku EuroAmerica, Inc, St Louis, Tokyo, 1989. £19.25 softbound.

Management of Minor Head Injuries, I.J. Swann & S.W. Yates. Pp. x + 102, illustrated. Chapman and Hall Medical, London, 1989. Paperback. £14.95.

Manual of Medical Therapeutics. 26th Edition, edited by W.C. Dungan & M.L. Ridner. Pp. xiii + 585, illustrated. Little, Brown & Company, Boston, Massachusetts, 1989. £9.95 Spiral paper bound.

Medical Record Examination Review. 5th edition. 800 Multiple Choice Questions with Explanatory Answers. Director S. Pritchard Bailey. Pp. vi + 279. Medical Examination Publishing Company (USA). Distributed by Gazelle Book Services, Lancaster. 1989. £18.25.

Postgraduate Diary

Institute of Cancer Research

Regular programme of seminars and teaching sessions throughout the year.

Information: The Dean, Institute of Cancer Research, Haddow Laboratories, 15 Cotswold Road, Belmont, Surrey SM2 5NG, UK.

National Heart and Lung Institute

Courses leading to award of University Diplomas in Cardiology and Thoracic Medicine. Short Courses, meetings and symposia are held throughout the year.

Postgraduate Office, National Heart and Lung Institute, Dovehouse Street, London SW3 6LY. Tel: 01-351 8172.

Institute of Child Health

Short courses booklet available.

For further details please apply to: Anne Crowley, Short Courses Office (Room 6), Institute of Child Health, 30 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1EH. Tel: 01-829 8692 (direct).

Institute of Dental Surgery

Courses for M.Sc. in various aspects of dentistry, Diploma in Dental Public Health, basic medical sciences, etc.

Information: The Dean, Institute of Dental Surgery, Eastman Dental Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8LD, UK.

Hunterian Institute

Long and short courses in basic medical sciences for primary FRCS (including revision courses in Anatomy/Physiology/Pathology), Primary FDS, FFA part 2 held through the year.

Courses in Clinical Surgery for final FRCS held in Spring and Autumn. Anastomosis Workshop; AO course of fracture treatment.

Details and applications: The Hunterian Institute, Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN. Tel: 01-405 3474.

Institute of Laryngology and Otolaryngology

Pre-FRCS and DLO exam courses. Advanced courses on: Temporal bone surgery – November and June. Anaesthesia for ENT – October. Rhinology and Surgery of the Nasal Cavity and Paranasal Sinuses – October. Nasal Plastic and Facial Soft Tissue Surgery – February. Pathology of the Ear, Nose and Throat – June.

Applications and enquiries: Cheryl Overington, Secretary to the Dean, Institute of Laryngology and Otolaryngology, 330/332 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EE.

Institute of Neurology

Sandoz Foundation advanced lectures on clinical and experimental neurology. Each Wednesday evening throughout academic year.

Details: Institute Registrar, National Hospital, Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG, UK.

RPMS Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Symposium on Neonatal cardiology. Friday 18 May 1990.

Details of symposia from: Symposium Secretary, RPMS Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Queen Charlotte's Hospital for Women, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG, UK.

Institute of Ophthalmology

Regular courses in ophthalmology held throughout the year.

17/25 Cayton Street, London EC1 9AT, UK.

Institute of Orthopaedics

Radiodiagnosis demonstrations – Mondays at 5 p.m. during the academic year.

Professorial unit residents' seminars/conferences, Thursdays. 8.00 a.m., Stanmore

Details: Miss A.M. Lucas, Postgraduate Secretary, Institute of Orthopaedics, The Middlesex Hospital, London W1. Tel: 01-380 9418.

Institute of Psychiatry

Programme of courses and lectures.

1st International conference on Psychology and the Performing Arts. 5–7 July 1990. Enquiries to Dr Glenn Wilson, Department of Psychology, Institute of Psychiatry.

Advances in affective disorders in old age 23–25 July 1990.

Two day course on Eating Disorders. 27–28 September 1990.

Details: Nadine Morgan, Conference Office, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, London SE5 8AG. Tel: 01-703 5411 ext 3170.

Institute of Urology

Short courses on aspects of urology and nephrology – throughout the year.

One year Diploma courses in urology and nephrology commencing September each year.

Advanced stone management course – held twice yearly. *Applications and enquiries: The Dean, Institute of Urology, 172–176 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JE, UK.*

IIIrd International Conference on SLE

To be held in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, London on 13, 14, 15 April, 1992.

For further details please contact: Dr Graham Hughes or Mrs Denzil Fletcher, Rheumatology Department, St. Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 7EH. Telephone and Fax No. 01-633 9422.

Royal Postgraduate Medical School

Regular courses on advanced topics.

School Office, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS, UK.

XVth International Update on Liver Disease

Royal Free Hospital and School of Medicine, London NW3 2QG 12–14 July 1990.

Further details and information: Professor Neil McIntyre, Academic Department of Medicine, Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG. Tel. 01 794 0500 ext 3969.

Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine

MRCP Part II. 5-day courses for clinical examination. Monday 4 June to Friday 8 June 1990. Monday 15 October to Friday 19 October 1990.

Details from: Dr Geraint James, Visiting Professor of Medicine, The Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, Pond Street, Hampstead, London NW3 2QG.

Advanced Medicine Course

Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton. 21–25 May 1990. Designed for consultants and senior registrars.
Information: The Administrator, Postgraduate Medical Centre, Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton. Tel. 0703 634288, ext 2493.

University of Keele

Diploma course for general practitioners in Primary Medical Care.

Details: Dr B. McGuinness, Department of Postgraduate Medicine, University of Keele, Keele, Staffordshire ST5 5BG. (Stoke on Trent 49144 ext 4047).

University of Manchester

M.A. in Health Care Ethics.

Details: Mrs S. Ibbotson, Department of Education, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL, UK.

University of Wales College of Medicine

Full or part-time Diploma or MSc programme in Medical Education.

Enquiries to Ms Lynne Allery, Lecturer in Medical Education, Department of Postgraduate Studies, University of Wales College of Medicine, Heath Park, Cardiff CF4 4XN.

Liverpool, Newsham General Hospital

Lunchtime meetings twice monthly.

Secretary, Postgraduate Centre, Belmont Road, Liverpool L6 4AF, UK.

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

MSc, diploma and research degree courses in public health and tropical medicine.

Enquiries: The Registrar, LSHTM, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT.

Advances in the Understanding and Treatment of Asthma

An international meeting jointly sponsored by The Royal Society of Medicine and The New York Academy of Sciences.

1–3 October 1990. To be held at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN

Details: Janet Locker, Medical Services Department, The Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE

9th International Congress. European Federation for Medical Informatics

20–23 August 1990.

Details: Dr. J.S. Bryden, Meeting Makers, 50 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XP.

Marcé Society

Fifth International Conference of the Marcé Society. Child Bearing and Mental Health.

University of York 4 to 7 September 1990.

Details: Conference Secretariat (Marcé). Bell Howe Conferences, 1 Willoughby, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 2LT. Tel. 44 (0) 602 436323.

Healthcare

Exhibition and Lectures, NEC Birmingham 22–24 May 1990.

Details: Health Care 90, Trinity House, Hercies Road, Hillingdon, Middx UB10 9NA.

XXXII International Congress for the History of Medicine

Antwerp, Belgium 3–7 September 1990.

Information: Thierry Appelboom MD, Erasmus University Hospital, route de Lennik 808. 1070 Brussels, Belgium.

International Symposium on Arthroscopy

1–3 November 1990.

Details: MetaPhor Conference & Meetings, 21 Kirkless Close, Farsley, Pudsey, W. Yorks LS28 5TF.

2nd European Congress of Endocrinology

1–6 July 1990. Ljubljana, Yugoslavia.

Information: Secretariat, Kompas Jugoslavia, Congress Department, Prazakova 4, 61000 Ljubljana, Yugoslavia.

European Medical Research Group

Next meeting: Tuesday 12 June 1990. Invited speaker Dr I. Munro (formerly Editor of *The Lancet*), 'Are there too many medical journals?'. 6.00 p.m. Medical Society of London.

Details: Dr D.R.J. Singer, c/o The Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine, 6 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB. Tel: 01 935 5556.

Full details of the courses, meetings and symposia listed above, and of others of interest to medical postgraduates, can be obtained from the individual organisations.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL TUTORS

The Summer Meeting of the Association will be held in York, from 4 to 7 July. This meeting is being held simultaneously with meetings of UK Conference of Postgraduate Advisers in General Practice, NAPMECA and the Conference of UK Deans, and a plenary session will be held.

The Winter Meeting of the Association is on 23 November at the Royal College of Physicians.

Council meetings: July 18, October 4

Former clinical tutors who would like to become Associate Members of the National Association of Clinical Tutors should write to the Secretariat for details of membership.

Information about the Association, and details of the above courses and meetings can be obtained from:

The Secretariat, National Association of Clinical Tutors, 6 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB. Tel. 01 935 5556 Fax 01 224 3219.

NEWS**In the news**

Professor P.G.E. Kennedy, recently elected to the Editorial Board of the *Postgraduate Medical Journal*, has been awarded the BUPA Medical Foundation 'Doctor of the Year' research award for 1990.

Dr R.C. King, the Regional Dean for South East Thames and Assistant Director of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, retired in April 1990. He is succeeded by Dr Michael Nicholls who is currently the Honorary Secretary of the Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine and a member of the Editorial Board of the *Postgraduate Medical Journal*. Dr Nicholls was previously the University Clinical Tutor for Worthing (S.W. Thames) and a past Honorary Secretary and Chairman of the National Association of Clinical Tutors.

FELLOWSHIP OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICINE

Grants for Research – 1990

The Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine is offering grants for travel, or towards the cost of equipment, for young graduates entering careers in clinical research. Successful applicants will be expected to submit reports of their research for publication in the *Postgraduate Medical Journal*.

Further information may be obtained from Mrs J.M. Coops, Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine, 6 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB (Tel. 01-935 5556), to whom applications should be made, giving a concise summary of the research project, the sum requested and a curriculum vitae of the applicant.

Closing date for applications: 30 June 1990

Notice to Contributors

The *Postgraduate Medical Journal* considers manuscripts prepared in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (*Br Med J* 1988, **296**: 401–405). All material submitted is assumed to be submitted exclusively to the *Postgraduate Medical Journal* unless the contrary is stated.

Typescripts Two complete copies should be sent to the Editor, Postgraduate Medical Journal, 6 St Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB. Papers must be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of paper not larger than A4 (297 mm × 210 mm), with a 5 cm margin. The first page of the typescript should bear the names of the author(s) and the name and address of the laboratory or institution where the work has been carried out, in addition to the title of the paper. The full address of the principal author to whom proofs will be sent should be given as a footnote, as should any permanent changes of address and/or appointment. A short (running) title of not more than 45 characters should be given. All pages should be numbered including the title page. In line with many other journals, we do not normally return rejected manuscripts.

The principal author must ensure that any co-authors listed agree to submission of the typescript. Any written or illustrative material which has been or will be published elsewhere must be duly acknowledged and accompanied by the written consent of the authors and publishers concerned.

Arrangement Papers should be divided into; (a) Title page, (b) Summary, (c) Introduction, (d) Materials and methods, (e) Results, (f) Discussion, (g) Acknowledgements, (h) References, (i) Tables, (j) Figures and captions. The summary should not exceed 250 words and should state concisely what was done, the main findings and how the work was interpreted. In all sections of the paper numbered paragraphs should be avoided if at all possible.

Style Abbreviations and symbols must be standard and SI units used throughout. Acronyms should be used sparingly and must be fully explained when first used. Whenever possible drugs should be given their approved generic name. Where a proprietary (brand) name must be used, it should begin with a capital letter. Statistical analyses must explain the methods used. The use of footnotes is not permitted. Single quotation marks should be used and words to be italicized should be underlined. The *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* is used as a reference for all spelling and hyphenation.

References should follow the Vancouver format. In the text, they should appear as numbers starting at 1. At the end of the paper they should be listed (double-spaced) in numerical order corresponding to the order of citation in the text. All authors should be quoted for papers with up to six authors; for papers with more than six authors, the first three only should be quoted followed by *et al.* Abbreviations for titles of medical periodicals should conform to those used in the latest

edition of *Index Medicus*. The first and last page numbers for each reference should be provided. Abstracts and letters must be identified as such.

1. Clements, R. & Gravelle, I.H. Radiological appearances of hydatid disease in Wales. *Postgrad Med J* 1986, **62**: 167–173.
2. Greenberger, J.S. Long-term hematopoietic cultures. In: Golde, W. (ed) *Hematopoiesis*. Churchill-Livingstone, New York, 1984, pp 203–242.

Figures In the text Arabic numbers should be used and all illustrations should be specifically referred to in the text, e.g. (Figure 2). All illustrations should be submitted at about 1½ times the intended final size and should be numbered as figures whether they are photographs, representational drawings or line diagrams and graphs.

Photographs and photomicrographs should be unmounted glossy prints and should not be retouched, and should be chosen to exclude technical artefacts. Magnification is best indicated by a line representing a defined length included within the photographs. Areas of key interest and/or critical reproduction should be indicated on a flimsy overlay attached to the photograph or on a photocopy. All annotations and lettering should be indicated in the same way, and preferably not included on the original print. Clearly contrasted and focused prints are essential for adequate reproduction.

Line diagrams and graphs should be on separate sheets; they must be drawn with black Indian ink on white paper, or supplied as photographic prints of such originals. Lettering on figures should be minimal and must not duplicate the legend. The use of symbols should be consistent within papers, and explanations of symbols should be included in the caption, not on the figure.

A photocopy of all illustrations should be submitted.

Tables These should be as few as possible and should present only essential data. They should be typewritten on separate sheets, have a title or caption, and given Roman numbers.

Proofs Two marked copies of the proofs will be sent to the principal author which should be read carefully for errors. One corrected copy must be returned to the editor within 3 days. Major alterations to the text cannot be accepted.

Copyright assignment The principal author must complete and return to the Publisher the Copyright Assignment Form enclosed with the proofs.

Offprints Twenty-five offprints will be supplied free of charge to the principal author. Additional offprints may be ordered on the form accompanying proofs. The charges are necessarily higher if orders are received after the issue has gone to press.

Drug side effects Manuscripts reporting adverse drug reactions should be accompanied by evidence showing that the reaction has been reported on a 'yellow card' or to the appropriate drug licensing authority, and to the drug manufacturer.