

Book Reviews

Annual Review of Immunology. Volume 7, William E. Paul, C. Garrison Fathman and Henry Metzger. Pp. vii + 730, illustrated. Annual Reviews Inc., Palo Alto, USA, 1989. \$34.00 (USA and Canada); \$38.00 (elsewhere).

The yearly arrival of the annual review series marks not only another year past but a very fruitful one for immunologists and molecular biologists. The 1989 *Annual Review of Immunology* accordingly devotes 12 out of 25 articles to various aspects of the T cells including structure, genetics, biological functions, memory, role in the development of human and murine autoimmune diseases and therapeutic manipulation by monoclonal antibodies. Excellent review articles on the molecular defects in paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria and chronic granulomatous disease (CGD) are included and will be useful to clinicians and scientists alike. The clinical implications of the identification of the X – CGD gene are clearly discussed in both terms of diagnosis and gene therapy.

An interesting opening feature in the book this year is an autobiographical section by George and Eval Klein aptly entitled 'How one thing has led to another'. This gives remarkable insight into their lives and careers from the very difficult years at the end of World War II on through their successful times at the Karolinska institute in Stockholm.

I found this year's *Annual Review of Immunology* particularly valuable and whether one reads it from cover to cover or just dips into the various articles, it will be an excellent source of reference.

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Glaucoma, edited by J.A. McAllister & R.P. Wilson. Pp. xiii + 271, illustrated. Butterworth Scientific, Westbury House, Guildford, Surrey, 1989. £59.50 (hard cover).

The aim of this edited review volume is to bring the reader rapidly up-to-date over a wide field in the diagnosis and management of glaucoma. Basically, divided into three sections, the initial chapters cover recent research into the patho-physiology of glaucoma and the use of modern techniques in the evaluation of visual function. The discussion of computer assisted perimetry provides much needed assistance in understanding the complexities and advantages of this increasingly used facility. There is a section on the aetiology and management of unusual secondary glaucomas with a fascinating explanation of the mechanisms of tumour related glaucoma. The section on surgical and laser treatment is the most practically useful part of the volume with plenty of advice on modifying, and coping with difficulties in filtration surgery. All the 14 chapters provide a succinct and easily readable account. The uniformity of style and presentation maintained by all the authors enable the ophthalmologist to read the volume as a whole rather than selecting individual contributions.

There are some omissions. There is little mention of the growing debate on the extent to which treatment modifies outcome in glaucoma. Neovascular glaucoma is mentioned at various points but deserves a chapter to itself. A chapter on surgical problem cases only briefly discusses the use of shunt and valve procedures. These criticisms apart, this volume is a 'must' for the general ophthalmologist. The extensive use of references will extend its appeal to a sub-specialist as well.

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

This is a small soft-back book which consists of a brief synopsis of neuroanatomy starting with embryology (covered in 3 pages) followed by osteology of the skull (4 pages), basic anatomy of the central nervous system (22 pages) and a review of the cranial nerves (24 pages).

The strength of the book is in the strong neurosurgical influence with an outstanding chapter on the physiology of raised intracranial pressure and the neuroanatomical havoc it wreaks is explained in detail. There are also labelled skull radiographs, 10 pages on computed tomography of the head and a detailed description of the blood supply of the brain with appropriate angiograms.

There is some horrible English in the misuse of 'exit' as a verb (present participle) and incorrect labelling of the actions of the eye muscles.

What is the place of this book? It would be useful to preclinical and clinical students as a supplement to emphasize the applied aspects of neuroanatomy. With these reservations it can be recommended.

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Psoriasis and Eczema, edited by Lionel Fry. Pp. vi + 202, illustrated. Clinical Press, Bristol, 1989. £15.00 paperback.

Psoriasis and Eczema is a small book which covers two large topics in detail and includes 18 colour illustrations. Three chapters on psoriasis describe clinical features, treatment, aetiology and pathogenesis. This is the best half of the book, reflecting the interest and expertise of the editor. The information is detailed and concise and particularly well referenced.

The chapter on aetiology and pathogenesis of psoriasis, whilst being of great interest to a trainee dermatologist, would probably prove to be unpalatable to those 'young

doctors working on primary care' for whom this series of books is supposedly written. Three chapters on eczema are thorough and more clinically orientated with less emphasis on immunology and molecular biology than the psoriasis chapters. The management of eczema is covered well with a sensible, pragmatic approach.

This book is an enjoyable informative read. It is also a valuable source of references, which are right up to date. Aspiring trainee dermatologists would do well to purchase and read this volume.

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Reproduction, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, M.G. Elder. Pp. xiv + 333, illustrated. Heinemann Medical Books, Oxford, London, Melbourne, Auckland, 1988. £20.

This paperback book represents good value for undergraduate medical students who require an introduction to obstetrics and gynaecology. It is a multi-author text and many of the chapters, especially the early ones on the physiology of reproduction, are well written and easy to read and digest.

Unfortunately, the book is somewhat unbalanced. Although most aspects of reproduction and obstetrics are covered fairly thoroughly, there are only two chapters on the whole of the remainder of gynaecology. Thus benign disorders of the reproductive organs and bladder receive only 20 pages, and malignant disorders still fewer. As these aspects of gynaecology represent a major part of the undergraduate curriculum the reader would obviously need to seek further information elsewhere. A whole chapter is devoted to the breast, which would be appropriate for a major gynaecological text book; but normally, in the United Kingdom, this type of information would be found in a text book on general surgery. The chapter on psychological aspects of reproduction is also somewhat strange and rather out of place in a short text of this type – and its suggestions for further reading date back to the 1940s and 1950s. Surely there are more up-to-date references on this very important subject?

Pregnancy and labour (both normal and abnormal) have been fully documented and the improvements in

outcome due to changes in practice and modern technology have been emphasized. There are 3 chapters on infertility covering all the up-to-date views on investigation and treatment.

Illustrations are necessarily few in a text of this size and price but those which have been used are helpful. The book is easy to handle and to read with good quality paper and print and excellent use of sub-headings within each chapter. If the next edition could incorporate a little more gynaecology, I am sure that this book would be widely advocated as an introductory text book for medical students.

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A Synopsis of Rheumatic Disease, 5th edition, Douglas N Golding. Pp. vi + 299, illustrated. Wright, Sevenoaks, Kent, 1989. £25.00.

This fifth edition of Douglas Golding's excellent and information packed book has been considerably revised and updated. It contains a wealth of information, presented in a clear, concise and unambiguous fashion and this makes it a very useful volume for the busy doctor requiring rapid access to authoritative information. The book is aimed for general physicians and postgraduate students as well as specialist rheumatologists and will prove very useful to the MRCP candidates requiring extensive knowledge of rheumatology presented in a clear and comprehensive fashion. The new chapters on the classification of the rheumatic disorders and disorders due to vasculitis are particularly appealing and the book is up to date with the latest changes in therapy in the rheumatic diseases.

The many diagrams, clinical photographs, radiographs and photomicrographs in colour and monochrome also make this a very appealing volume. All in all, this is a most worthwhile and useful book.

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Books Received

Annual Review of Immunology, Volume 8, edited by William E. Paul. Pp. x + 819, illustrated. Annual Reviews Inc. Palo Alto, Ca, USA, 1990. \$38.00 (USA & Canada), \$42.00 (elsewhere).

Annual Review of Medicine: Selected Topics in the Clinical Sciences, Volume 41, edited by William P. Creger. Pp. x + 534, illustrated. Annual Reviews Inc., Palo Alto, Ca, USA, 1990. \$38.00 (USA & Canada) \$42.00 (elsewhere).

Changing Values in Medical and Health Care Decision Making, edited by Uffe Juul Jensen and Gavin Mooney. Pp. x + 195. John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1990. £22.50.

Essentials of Experimental Surgery, J.S.P. Lumley, C.J. Green, P. Lear and J.E. Angell-James. Pp. viii + 262, illustrated. Butterworths, London, Boston, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1990. £45.00.