

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.