refreshing to find discussions on tests for normality, and reasonable descriptions of more recent confidence limits and poisson distributions. If all clinicians read the chapter on correlation and regression there would be far fewer papers incorrectly correlating, for example, blood glucose [method 1] with blood glucose [method 2].

The only caveat I would mention is that this book is designed for use with computer programmes on statistics, but which one?

A.C. Burden,
Leicester General Hospital,
Leicester LE5 4PW.

Ophthalmology in Medicine – An Illustrated Clinical Guide. David Abrams. Pp. 280, illustrated. Martin Dunitz, London, 1990. £39.95 hardback.

Medical ophthalmology is an art widely understood and practised in Britain but less so in other parts of the world. Britain set these academic standards in the 1960s, when we established an innovative Medical Ophthalmology Unit at St Thomas' Hospital, London; a vigorous London Medical Ophthalmology Society which meets at various London hospitals every month; and two excellent textbooks of medical ophthalmology.^{1,2}

This admirable new illustrated clinical guide adds lustre to this British tradition of medical ophthalmology and it is strongly recommended as a bedside clinical companion for physicians in all disciplines of medicine. There is an interesting chapter on the interface between ophthalmology and paediatrics; rheumatology; the ear, nose and throat; dermatology; oncology; endocrinology; genitourinary medicine; tropical diseases; haematology; gastroenterology; respiratory disease; and nephrology. Here then is its wide coverage, supported by hundreds of beautiful colour photographs. Where else would one find such an elegant Kayser-Fleischer ring as this one from the Royal Free Hospital?

At the end of the chapter there is a summary of practical points or punch-lines which are recommended for all medical students and paramedical workers in this field. They would also benefit early in their career by learning the techniques of ophthalmoscopy and slit-lamp examination before it is too late. It is difficult to comprehend how the publisher has managed to provide us with such a wealth of colour at such a reasonable price.

D.G. James
149 Harley Street,
London W1N 1HG.

References

1. Rose, F.C. *Eye in general medicine*. Chapman and Hall, London, 1983.
2. Dinning, W.J. *Systemic Inflammatory Disease and the Eye*. John Wright, Bristol, 1987.

Perinatal and Multigeneration Carcinogenesis. edited by N.P. Napalkov, J.M. Rice, L. Tomatis and H. Yamasaki. IARC Scientific Publications No. 96. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1989. £48.00

In 1965, The World Health Organization established the International Agency for Research on Cancer. This agency's brief is to conduct a programme of research which concentrates on the epidemiology of cancer and carcinogenesis. *Perinatal and multigeneration carcinogenesis* is the publication resulting from the symposium in Leningrad in June 1988. This book's 436 pages reviews model and mechanisms in experimental carcinogenesis and human carcinogenesis. The authors are from many different countries which include Russia, India, West Germany, France, America and Italy. The book's subject matter ranges from radiation exposure, transplacental exposure to oestrogens and carcinogens and reviews of chemical pathways of carcinogenesis. The Editorial Board's introduction views this book as representing a multidisciplinary discussion and this discussion; I personally found rather exhausting in its completeness. It is very difficult to establish the audience for this book. Certainly it does not include clinicians nor molecular biologists involved in the study of cancer. I am afraid that this book is of very little interest particularly because of its emphasis upon slightly irrelevant work performed by groups whose presence at the symposium would apparently result from political expedience rather than scientific merit. This is not the volume to buy your favourite medical student relative for Christmas and it is a fine example of medical ephemera without relevance to science.

J. Waxman
Hammersmith Hospital,
London W12 0HS.

A Textbook of Paediatrics in the Tropics and Sub-tropics. P.M. Barnes, Harjit Singh and A.J.H. Stephens. Pp. vi + 282, illustrated. Macmillan Publishers, London, Basingstoke, 1990. £35.00.

The spiralling cost of medical books, whilst a problem for individuals or libraries in the economically affluent countries is a disaster for much of the developing world. Educational facilities in developing countries for those in training and perhaps even more for those who are qualified and working in rural areas are very restricted. Thus there is a desperate need for books and educational materials which are clear, practical and relevant, and above all cheap. The authors aim with this book is to focus on the requirements of the undergraduate medical student and the generalist, presumably those working in the tropics and the sub-tropics as indicated by the title. The book is clearly printed with useful tables and a lay-out which highlights clinical signs or points in management in relation to particular conditions. However, to be useful such a book must cover the problems the readers are likely to meet accurately and in sufficient detail to be useful. There are a number of places where this reader is somewhat concerned about the reliability of the clinical material presented. One example of this is the Figure relating to the development of measles. In my experience, an incubation period of 12–24 days is unusually long and particularly if then followed by 6 days of illness prior to the appearance of Koplik's spots and a further 3 days before the appearance of the main measles rash.

The authors state in their preface that they decided not to include neonatology in this book. This would seem to me a mistake since, particularly where doctors do not

have the luxury of being able to separate their neonatology from the general paediatrics, many of the every day problems of the newborn merge into those of the infant. There is a section on the vomiting child in the chapter on abdominal diseases which includes some discussion on vomiting in young infants but does not really cover the issue of feeding problems and failure to thrive in this age group. There is no discussion of jaundice in young infants. Of more concern is the lack of any discussion of acute diarrhoea other than one paragraph in the chapter on fluids, electrolytes and dehydration. So far as I can see rotavirus, Shigellae, Salmonellae (other than in the section of typhoid fever) and pathogenic *E. coli* are not mentioned. Given the importance of diarrhoea in morbidity and mortality for children from the developing world this would appear to be an important gap. There are 13 pages on childhood malignancies and a section on cystic fibrosis equivalent in length to that on sickle cell disease, which leaves the reader concerned that the more esoteric conditions have disadvantaged the common problems of the tropics and sub-tropics.

Despite the omissions described, this book covers a lot in just under 300 pages. There are many illustrations of moderate quality but we all need to be reminded that skin conditions are often shown very poorly in black and white photographs particularly when they involve black skin. This is a book of some quality which will have many readers. Perhaps the authors should consider a critical appraisal of its contents before a second edition.

E.M.E. Poskitt
Institute of Child Health
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospitals (Alder Hey),
Eaton Road,
Liverpool L12 2AP.

Urologic Pathology with Clinical and Radiologic Correlations. edited by Ayten Someren. Pp. x + 750, illustrated. Pergamon, New York, Toronto, London, 1989. £59.40, \$95.

This textbook is written primarily for pathologists, but will be of interest to clinicians and radiologists involved with the management of urological disease. There are other specialised textbooks that provide a more com-

prehensive account of urologic pathology, but none so successfully correlates pathology with clinical and radiological findings.

The book contains seven chapters titled: The Kidneys, Urinary Passages, Renal Transplantation, Prostate and Seminal Vesicles, Testis and Paratesticular Structures, Penis and Scrotum and the Adrenal Glands. Each chapter discusses congenital anomalies, various inflammatory and non-neoplastic disorders and then the neoplasms. Within these groups each topic is discussed in terms of the aetiology, epidemiology, clinical presentation, radiological appearances, pathological features, differential diagnosis, prognosis and therapy. The text is well supported by illustrations of gross specimens and radiographs, although with some of the photomicrographs it is difficult to identify the features described. The book benefits from references to literature up until 1988, although the text would be easier to read if the Vancouver style of referencing had been adopted.

Contributors to the book have been chosen by the editor from staff of the University Hospital at which she works in Atlanta, Georgia. This has inevitably given the book a North American flavour, but might also explain the emphasis given to various topics – glomerulonephritides occurring in transplant kidneys are discussed in some detail, while no mention is made of IgA nephropathy in native kidneys, a condition that commonly presents to urologists.

The book is to be recommended as a valuable source of information to pathologists and clinicians involved with urological problems and is presented in a style that makes it very readable. It is unlikely to be seen as the definitive textbook for either group, but provides an overview of the subject that cannot be gained from a book devoted to either pathology or clinical urology alone. We would recommend it to all involved in the management of disease affecting the kidneys and urogenital systems.

A.J. Williams
Morrison Hospital,
Swansea,
W. Glamorgan.
 S. Howell
Neath Hospital,
Neath,
W. Glamorgan.

Books Received

Essentials of Respiratory Disease. 3rd Edition, R.B. Cole and A.D. Mackay. Pp. 180, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1990. \$14.95, paperback.

Genes and Cancer, edited by Desmond Carney and Karol Sikora. Pp. xvi + 340, illustrated. John Wiley and Sons, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, Singapore, 1990. £24.95 hardback.

The Medical Book of Lists, 3rd Edition, edited by Greenberger, Agee, King and Nelson. Pp. xiv + 297. Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago, London etc., 1990. £17, paperback.

A Researchers Guide to Scientific and Medical Illustrations, edited by T.D. Brock. Pp. xi + 210, illustrated. Springer-Verlag, Berlin New York, London, 1990. DM 38.00, paperback.