Elstein, Janet Grant, Diana Laurillard, Geoffrey Masters and Paul Ramsden. The two other editors' backgrounds are speech therapist education and nurse education respectively.

All the contributors' papers are included. An index would have helped selective reading, but the reader will gain most by taking the book as a whole. There are short commentaries based on recordings of discussions arising from the papers, and John Balla has supplied a scene-setting chapter (ch. 1, adapted from an earlier paper) and a valuable drawing-together chapter which includes suggested ways forward (ch. 10, the Model of the subtitle). In addition, a collective theory of education permeates the book: effective education enables 'students to make conceptual shifts to an increasingly complex understanding of the subject matter' (p. 175). This demands starting from where the individual students are, by harnessing students' perspectives.

It would have been interesting to have had more clinicians among the contributors and to have had a contribution from health professions other than medicine, if only to make the collection more accessible, as intended, to practising educators in the health professions. It is nonetheless a stimulating collection.

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Magnetic Stimulation in Clinical Neurophysiology, edited by Sudhansu Chokroverty. Pp. xx + 308, illustrated. Butterworths, Boston, London, Singapore, Sydney, Toronto, Wellington, 1990. £48.00.

Reviews of a subject are often deemed to be timely; this one is almost certainly premature. Magnetic stimulation of the brain was introduced in 1986; the technique has advanced rapidly and has been used in both basic physiological research and in clinical studies. Despite this, such basic questions as what neural elements in the brain are excited by magnetic stimuli remain unanswered. This book is the result of a symposium held in 1987 and it is therefore not surprising that half of the chapters end by implying that the interim results obtained are sufficient to draw firm conclusions.

The first six chapters are concerned with the physics and design aspects of magnetic stimulators. These are written by engineers and provide excellent background information necessary for the eventual understanding of how these devices stimulate the brain. There then follow

chapters on the physiological aspects of muscle response to brain stimulation, safety aspects, and clinical applications. Finally there are chapters on magnetic stimulation of peripheral nerve and motor roots which come to the conclusion that the technique has limited clinical application and cannot be recommended for general use.

The editor of such a volume has the unenviable task of coordinating the information from 49 contributors. Some repetition is unavoidable but no less than 6 chapters contain similar historical introductions and the appearance of identical illustrations separated by only 3 pages was a *faux pas*.

The book will be useful to research workers, particularly those needing to understand the basic physics of magnetic stimulation, but clinicians wanting to use the technique are likely to be disappointed.

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

It is very difficult to know who would actually use *The Medical Book of Lists*. There is no doubt that this book is extremely detailed and if one wanted to know quickly whether lithium caused nephrogenic diabetes insipidus it would be invaluable.

Junior doctors in this country have their pockets full of national formularies, diaries and almost certainly would have no room to carry the book of lists around with them. Although they should endeavour to produce a useful differential diagnosis when the situation becomes complex they will either turn to the library or to senior doctors. Senior doctors too will not carry this book around, which is presumably what they are meant to do in view of its size, and if they cannot think of 40 causes of nephrogenic diabetes insipidus they will also turn to the library and the large textbooks.

I have no complaints about the contents of this book but I think it is very unlikely that many people would need to use it.

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Books Received

Annual Review of Genetics, Vol 24, edited by Allan Campbell, illustrated. Annual Reviews Inc, Palo Alto, California, USA, 1990. Hardback, \$42.00.

Ethical Practice in Clinical Medicine, William J. Ellos. Pp. 190. Routledge, London, New York, 1990. Paperback, £8.99.

Pain Control, Second edition, Jane Latham. Pp. xi + 124, illustrated. Austen Cornish Publishers, 1991. Paperback, £6.50.