Molecular graphics is particularly well discussed, giving an insight to the difficulties of presenting genetic sequences. Computer graphic generation for translating mathematical data into graphs is a powerful way to show results. These graphs are well supported by informative use of typography and symbols whether for publication or as a teaching slide.

For those who are involved in poster presentations this book would prove invaluable. 'It takes intelligence, even brilliance, to condense and focus information into a clear, simple presentation that will be read and remembered. Ignorance and arrogance are shown in a crowded, complicated, hard to read poster'.

There are few books on preparing effective visual scientific illustration. This must become an essential handbook to researcher and illustrator alike.

A. Rollason
Medimedia Limited,
Chester House,
Petworth Road,
Witley, Godalming,
Surrey LU8 5LY.

Roundsmanship '90. A Yearbook Guide to Clinical Medicine, edited by Bruce B. Dan, *et al.* Pp. xii + 270, illustrated. Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago, London, etc., 1990. Paperback £16.00.

This volume is a collection of summaries of important articles in the medical literature over the past year. It has been selected by a group of academic American physicians who have also commented on the substance and conclusion of the articles.

Such abstracts can never of course replace reading the original article but there is little doubt that there is enormous value in being able to get the flavour of the important work which has gone on in specialties other than ones own. The informative commentaries extend the educational value of the publication.

Scattered throughout the book are a collection of aphorisms which they describe as being clinical pearls and they certainly provide food for thought. However they certainly do not present any challenge to Hippocrates.

One is tempted to think of this as a treasure trove for those wishing to impress their seniors on teaching rounds, i.e. to exhibit 'roundsmanship'. Used thoughtfully it will be of much more value than this.

The volume is introduced by a short article by Robert G. Petersdorf, President of the American Medical Colleges about the nature of teaching rounds, and he ends it with some sound advice to the young doctor on how to orientate his reading. I would recommend this publication.

J.C. Ferguson
Ballochmyle Hospital,
Manchline,
Ayrshire.

Year Book of Family Practice 1990, Rakel, Avant, Driscoll, Prichard, and Smith, Pp. xvi + 510, illustrated. Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago, London, etc, 1990. Hardback £41.50.

The introduction to this book states that its primary objective 'has always been to assist the family physician in remaining current with recent advances in medicine'. To attain this objective the editor and his associates have reviewed nearly 700 medical journals and have selected the most appropriate articles for publication. Their comments on the usefulness and appropriateness of each of the chosen studies are most helpful to the reader. There are 18 chapters, each covering a sub-division of medicine. The chapter entitled Family Problems is of importance to general practitioners, covering areas such as the effect of unemployment on mental health. There is an excellent cumulative subject index and also an author index. I would not regard every selection as being relevant to the British family practitioner. There is a preponderance of articles relating to HIV infection in the chapter entitled Infectious Disease, many of which would not be of interest to the British reader. However, there are many excellent articles such as 'The Benefits of Early Anti-Inflammatory Medication following Acute Ankle Injury' (Sloane *et al.*, *Injury* 20: 81-83, March 1989) which could alter the family practitioner's approach to his patient. None of the articles is very long and all are well presented, the graphs and illustrations being easy to understand. The family practitioner could use this book either as a reference book or as a book for glancing at during occasional free moments.

A.J. McDonald
228 Lichfield Road, Four Oaks,
Sutton Coldfield,
W. Midlands B74 2UE.

My Heart's Health: A New Revolutionary View, Demetrio Sodi Pallares. Pp. xix + 198. Piccin, Padua, 1990. Cloth £16.00.

The views of Dr Pallares are unconventional from the view point of the typical modern cardiologist. There is much in this book which is based on fundamental principles of cellular biology and electrophysiology. A wide variety of disease processes are discussed at length and the author's view expounded in detail. Unfortunately, there is little here that a cardiologist would feel happy with in everyday clinical practice and I cannot recommend this book for this reason.

Bernard Clarke
Southampton General Hospital,
Wessex Cardiothoracic Centre,
Tremona Road,
Southampton SO9 4XY.