Secretary for Health, Stephen Dorrell, gave a robust but unconvincing defence of Government health strategies, and I found myself more in agreement with Sir Michael Drury who concluded that, 'The agenda for success exists around us. It does not need new research or new knowledge. It needs the proper application of what we already know'. This timely symposium report should be of interest to both GPs and psychiatrists. It should find its way into medical libraries and be closely studied by those involved in health policy making at all levels.

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Faced with the flood of surgical publications and the ever increasing number of technical journals, our task of keeping abreast with what is new and important in our speciality is made easier by the excellent series of articles that appear in successive issues of Recent Advances in Surgery.

The editors of this 14th edition, from the University of Southampton, are to be congratulated on an excellent choice of subjects and authors, which well reflect current topics of importance and of rapid change. First on the list must be placed the really excellent review of alternatives to cholecystectomy for stones, a truly masterly contribution which takes us through the plethora of possibilities. Other subjects range over technical problems such as liver resection, rectal prolapse and malignant melanoma, important aspects of trauma—chest injuries, blast and burns— the debate on management for cancer of the pancreas and the nowadays inevitable chapters on AIDS and audit. The final contribution, by the senior editor, rounds up with a review of recent advances across a range of topics along the alimentary tract and the breast.

The editors promise us that this publication will now be a regular annual event. News that will be received with a sign of relief by hard pressed surgeons.

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Books Received


