illness into their own hands and trying to control and deal with it rather than being told what to do by a medical practitioner. While this perception may be incorrect as far as many general practitioners are concerned, it is nevertheless an important consideration in the minds of the public. This book looks at the training and educational development of complementary practitioners and, in many ways, has little to add to the information available from other texts. The final chapter, however, on the politics of complementary medicine confronts the political problems that exist between conventional and complementary medical practitioners in a very illuminating manner.

Dr Sharma does not support complementary medicine unreservedly or as an act of faith, but rather wishes to look at the growth in complementary medicine as a way of defining how we respond and deal with our own health care needs. There are many lessons within this book for those wishing to plan health care provision. It analyses what people want and feel they need in order to help themselves. As a sociologist, it looks at complementary medicine as a study model, and demonstrates some fascinating points about how we analyse and utilize the medical provisions available to us.

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Brain Blood Flow in Neurology and Psychiatry, P.J. Ell and D.C. Costa. Pp. 183, 166 illustrations. Churchill Livingstone, London, 1991. £14.95, hardback.

This handbook is part of a series which aims to present the clinical utility of nuclear medicine to doctors in general medicine/surgery and specialized disciplines. The introductory four chapters quickly provide the uninitiated with the essentials of the radiotracer technique for imaging regional cerebral blood flow (rCBF) by single photon emission computerized tomography (SPET). The major chapter on rCBF SPET imaging in disease presents data on series of patients with migraine, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, dementia, cerebrovascular disease and space occupying lesions.

Apart from being inconclusive regarding SPET's contribution to understanding pathophysiology, one is left with the impression that, although providing complementary imaging, the technique does not singly provide information that alters clinical decision-making. There is a suggestion that serial changes in rCBF SPET images parallel clinical changes in Alzheimer dementia, which may be of value in assessing response to various treatment regimes.

The last and longest chapter is a collection of 34 cases and, contrary to the preface, many of the scans are poorly labelled with right or left omitted. In an introductory book which includes basic clinical definitions, it is not unreasonable to expect arrows on the angiographic, CT, MRI, and especially SPET abnormalities.

The references are up to date but the typesetting is unusual and difficult to read.

The book is sponsored by Amersham who developed ^{99m}Tc-HMPAO (CERETEC™), the frequently mentioned radiotracer. The 24 lines on toxicity are dismissive, and although rats might survive 14,000 times the human

dose, the possibility of long-term toxicity in humans is not addressed.

A neurologist interested in the subject would probably seek a more comprehensive text, but to the non-specialized it is a readable and concise introduction to technology which hopefully will be more applicable in the future.

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ABC of Antenatal Care, G. Chamberlain. Pp. viii + 84, illustrated. BMJ, London, 1992. £9.95 UK, £12.00 overseas, paperback.

Good general practice is the heart of health care. The generalist must know something of everything – or if wise, where to find it. The general practitioner obstetrician will not be disappointed with this book.

The well-presented and illustrated text with crisp summary boxes covers normal and abnormal antenatal care in 16 readable chapters, though the A4 format is 'book-shelf unfriendly'. Traditional approaches are challenged: Is there a reason for each visit? Are unproven tests added to obsolete ones? Circulatory changes are well explained, as are tests of fetal wellbeing. There is common sense advice on medical disorders and symptom complexes, and a useful chapter on statistics.

A few grumbles. Any possible connection between CVB and limb defects is more likely to relate to gestation at testing than route. I would like to see the need for early ultrasound stressed in early pregnancy bleeding. The quoted recurrence rate for cardiac defects seems higher than current opinion, and does not stress the importance of family history. The serum iron arrow is upside down in the box for thalassaemia. 'Neonatal' for 'antenatal' appears on page 56. Bed rest, currently questioned, is perhaps overstressed for mild hypertension. In eclampsia reduced clotting is more likely than increased. Fundal height measurement (easy for GPs) is omitted in IUGR screening. Twin:twin transfusion is virtually unknown in dizygotic twin pregnancy.

These are small blemishes on a large canvas, and I would strongly recommend this book to GP obstetricians, vocational trainees and medical students.

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Recent Advances in Paediatrics 10, edited by T. David. Pp. viii + 246, 60 illustrations. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Tokyo, Melbourne, New York, 1991. £22.50, paperback.

Tim David has once again brought together in one small volume a series of short articles covering many of the growing points in paediatrics. The subject matter is, with only the occasional exception, presented in a form easily absorbed and understood by the non-specialist. Particularly useful contributions cover hypoglycaemia, the management of HIV infection and severe asthma, extra