would be a valuable addition to the library of any academic department of primary health care.

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Lipids and Renal Disease, edited by J.H. Stein and W.F. Keane. Pp. xiii + 216, not illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, Tokyo, New York, 1991. £40.00, hardback.

This volume is the latest in a series entitled Contemporary Issues in Nephrology. To general physicians it may come as a surprise that the leading cause of death in dialysis and transplant patients is cardiovascular disease. Moreover, the onset of uraemia greatly accelerates atherosclerosis in diabetics. With all the controversy surrounding intervention to prevent vascular disease in non-uraemic subjects, the poor old kidney patient with his cardiovascular problems may be the straw that will break the fundholder's back! Did you know that hypertriglyceridaemia can occasionally be cured by parathyroidectomy in transplant patients? Perhaps the two colleagues in my District General Hospital to whom I showed the cover of this book would not have scoffed quite so much at its title had they had time to extract these fascinating gems from between its covers.

The book starts with as good an epidemiological survey as I have read of the relationships between lipids and hypertension, and certainly the quality, detail and the references cited throughout this multi-author book confirm it as a 'state of the art' publication. Among the subjects covered are the nature of glomerulosclerosis, lipid abnormalities and the nephrotic syndrome and after kidney transplantation, and the role that the metabolites of arachidonic acid have in mediating inflammation in the kidney and renal blood flow. To many jobbing nephrologists, certainly to doctors outside the field of nephrology, dialysis and transplantation are probably seen as sufficient unto themselves and costly enough, but to those interested in the whole patient, the insight given by this book into the role that lipids play in their continuing health problems is invaluable. Regrettably, the therapeutic options remain limited and the author of this review believes that a combined approach with anti-thrombotic therapy as well as lipid modifying regimes might be necessary to palliate the ravages of arterial disease in the dialysis and transplant population.

Although this book is aimed at nephrologists, it would not be out of place on the shelves of cardiologists and indeed anyone with an interest in vascular disease and/or renal physiology.

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Atlas of Surgical Anatomy of the Hand, edited by E.A. Zancolli and E.P. Cozzi. Pp. xi + 745, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, New York, Melbourne, Tokyo, 1991. £295, hardback.

Undoubtedly this is the most comprehensive, as well as most beautifully illustrated, atlas of the anatomy of the hand that has yet been published. Dr Zancolli is an Argentinian orthopaedic surgeon with a special interest in hand surgery, and the late Professor Elbio Cozzi was a distinguished anatomist whose skills are demonstrated by the superb dissections which are pictured in this book.

Large though it is, the atlas is not designed to cover every aspect of hand anatomy, but concentrates on a number of areas of interest in orthopaedic, plastic and hand surgery. These include, for example, the fasciae of the hand in relation to Dupuytren's and certain congenital digital malformations, the extensor apparatus of the fingers in relation to clawing of the fingers, mallet finger and boutonnière deformity, and the anatomy and biomechanics of the flexor tendon sheaths in relation to reconstructive surgery.

The illustrations are in the form of brilliant colour photographs of dissections, many of them performed under the microscope, with accompanying clear line diagrams. The text is extensive and includes fully researched historical introductions. At its size and price, this is a text book for specialist anatomists and hand surgeons – but they will greatly prize it.

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Basic Histopathology: A colour atlas and text, 2nd Edition, edited by P.R. Wheater, A.G. Burkitt, A. Stevens and J.S. Lowe. Pp. 252, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London. 1991. £24.95, paperback.

I have enjoyed reading this book and I have found it both informative and clearly presented. This book is intended for pre-clinical, and clinical medical and dental students in practical classwork and private study. In this niche, this book is outstanding. I believe that it is most appropriate in the practical classroom setting and as such is outstanding and indeed unique.

However, it is not a comprehensive text book of pathology and the student will need to refer to other texts for more detailed accounts of diseases and disease processes. This should not deter the student from buying this book. It is reasonably priced for the student pocket and in dimensions it is easy to handle and read (188 x 245 mm, 14 mm thick). It is comparatively lightweight at 705 g. The standard of the text, photomicrographs and the general layout is excellent, and the index is full and easy to use.

The success of this book is clear and this is the second edition. This book should be brought to the attention of all undergraduate medical and dental students, and I believe it also has a useful place in postgraduate studies. Doctors studying for primary examinations in medicine, surgery, pathology and other specialities will find this book useful.

In summary, this book fulfills its aims and is thoroughly recommended.

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