and infective causes must not be overlooked. It would be a calamity if a patient was treated with high dose steroids for supposed neurosarcoidosis when he really needed amphotericin or fluconazole for fungal meningitis or even anti-tuberculous chemotherapy. Direct staining of clinical specimens remains the most rapid and reliable method for the diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis, but future techniques are reviewed including DNA amplification by polymerase chain reactions recognition of tuberculostearic acid by gas chromatography, and adenosine deaminase activity in pleural effusions. Turn to this monograph for up-to-date guidance on AIDS and its associated mycobacterial infections. If you practise in any of these fields you will enjoy an extensive bibliography. This monograph is modestly priced and nicely produced.

D.G. James
149 Harley Street,
London W1N 1HG.

Practical Guide to the Care of the Medical Patient, edited by Fred F. Ferri. Pp.xii + 804, illustrated. Wolfe Publishing, London, 1991. Paperback £24.95.

For a small volume, this book packs a powerful punch. Designed to provide a rapidly accessible and comprehensive practical guide to medical diagnosis and management, it is crammed with information, both physiological and of the 'how to' variety, across a wide spectrum of specialties including psychiatry and dermatology. Each disorder is described (in note form) in terms of definition, general approach and background theory, followed by clinical features including the important points of history-taking and physical examination; thereafter the principles of management and diagnostic studies and procedures are outlined, as practised in American hospitals. The section on differential diagnosis gives a useful initial guide according to presenting sign or symptom.

So concentrated is the book's presentation, however, that I felt somewhat beaten up by it when I had reached the end; it tries to do too much. Space for annotation would have been very useful, especially in view of the entirely American style and use of units and drugs. This represents its main drawback – many of the management plans suggested simply do not reflect British hospital practice, and even though it contains a vast amount of well-organized information, a significant amount is useless to our junior staff.

In summary, were I going to the USA to work, I would buy it tomorrow, but for the present, stick to one of the British equivalents.

F. Karet
Clinical Pharmacology,
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Cambridge CB2 2QQ.

Advice for House Surgeons, C.D. Johnson. Pp. vi + 52, not illustrated. Beaconsfield, England, 1992. Paperback £4.50 from bookshops, £4.95 post-paid.

I enjoyed reading this booklet, it took me back to my days as a house surgeon. The emphasis in this book is on

organizing oneself to give excellent service to one's patient, one's registrar and one's consultant. This service aspect of the post is covered very well. I had hoped to see chapters on 'How to make sure you are getting trained' and 'How to obtain counselling on your progress and your future.' Nowadays, the emphasis is on training for pre-registration house officers rather than successful survival of an obstacle course. Nevertheless, the author has succeeded in producing a 'survival kit' and its open and friendly style is a model of today's relationship between house surgeons and consultants.

Michael Pietroni
Whipps Cross Hospital,
Leytonstone,
London E11.

Congenital, perinatal and neonatal infections, edited by A Greenhough, J. Osborne and S. Sutherland. Pp. 245. not illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, New York, Melbourne, London, Tokyo, Edinburgh, 1992. Hardback £29.50.

If you enjoy grubbing around in the garden whilst hurling insults at your neighbour's cat this book may well spoil your enjoyment when you reach *Toxoplasma*! That, however, should certainly not stop you from buying this excellent book. As a practising obstetrician I have searched extensively and without success for a good book on infection until now.

These editors have produced a clear, concise and readable guide to the everyday clinical problems produced by infectious diseases and faced by obstetricians and paediatricians.

The first three chapters are a clinical approach by clinicians for clinicians. The next is a hard-hitting painfully searching challenge from the laboratory suggesting clinicians are prone to send (anonymously) the wrong specimen, incorrectly labelled, for the wrong reason, for the wrong test, and in the wrong container! Which of us can claim a totally clear conscience? There follows 16 chapters covering the different infections, with helpful and – in most cases – clear and concise advice about management even in such confused areas as the mode of delivery in maternal genital *Herpes* infection.

This is a very useful reference book but will, I believe, well repay being read from cover to cover by obstetricians, paediatricians and their trainees. It will find a valued space on my bookshelf.

A.F.J. Atkins
1, Scudale Road,
Swainby,
Northallerton,
North Yorkshire DL6 3DP.

Atlas of Gastric Surgery, edited by M.J. Zinner. Pp. xiv + 342, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, Tokyo, 1992. Hardback £90.00.

The policy of this series, stated in the foreword, is to link surgeons with great experience and superb artists. Dr Michael Zinner undoubtedly fulfills the first limb of the

duo as a gastric surgeon of great eminence. He has also spent some time in England and this will enhance the value of this atlas amongst British readers. Similarly, Ms Gwynne Gloeges' illustrations indicate a breadth and depth of experience linked with enviable talent.

Undoubtedly, the need for this atlas exists. Many surgeons in training will see very few operations carried out for benign disease of an elective nature. They may, however, be called upon to do emergency procedures for complications of ulcers, elective surgery for the few in whom drug treatment fails and, for a few years to come, there will be the complications of previous surgery upon which to attempt corrective surgery. The incidence of malignant disease is certainly not diminishing. There may be moments at which a young surgeon is faced with an organ in trouble and about whose management he has little practical experience.

A general complaint about atlases is that the illustrations are always of the ideal anatomy. The use of black and white also detracts from the sense of reality, for example, of the obese patient and the threatening purple proximity of the spleen. To illustrate this point, this reviewer feels that the illustrations on page 107 of the division of the short gastrics represent a situation some way removed from that usually faced when working one's way along the greater curvature, trying to see the short gastric vessels embedded in fat – atlases are no substitute for 'hands on' experience. It is noted that page 107 is repeated as page 129 (and 213), indeed the operation for volvulus is largely a repeat of the Nissen procedure.

There are several references to the use of non-absorbable sutures admitted on outer (Lembert) layers. The emphasis should be made that only absorbable sutures should be used on the mucosa in gastric surgery because of the risk of ulceration around non-absorbables. Perhaps the atlas lacks personal comments of this type.

Kocher's manoeuvre is mentioned but does not appear to be described and does not appear in the index. It is quite an important and usually inadequately performed technique.

Dr Zinner makes the expected use of stapling devices – indeed he is conservative in the use thereof. There are perhaps some differences in stapling technique that could be mentioned but this is not so much a criticism as highlighting differences of personal technique. I regret the lack of mention of Lanes Twin clamps (modified by Tanner) which have made gastro-jejunal anastomoses so safe and easy over the years.

The book, despite these minor criticisms, shows one man's views on how it can be done and, since the

apprenticeship method is well tried and tested, Dr Zinner is a good man to follow. It should be readily available in operating department libraries. It is, as one would expect from this publisher, well produced and presented. All concerned should be complimented.

E.S. Field
Brook General Hospital
London SE18

The Leukemic Cell, 2nd edition, edited by D. Catovsky. Pp. 428, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, Tokyo, Madrid, 1991. Hardback £60.00.

This book aims to provide an up-to-date summary of the method by which leukaemic cells may be studied *in vitro* and hence some insight into the leukaemic process. It is a multi-author volume with chapters contributed by experts in the field who describe the various laboratory techniques which may be used in studying leukaemic cells. The methods described range from cytochemistry, histology and electron microscopy through to monoclonal antibodies, cytogenetics and molecular biological analysis. The balance of the book is generally good but there are far too many electron micrographs with two chapters on the ultrastructure of lymphoid and of leukaemia cells. My other criticism of this book is the absence of coloured plates in the chapter on marrow histology so that, although the chapter is well written, it is unlikely to be used in preference to a colour atlas.

As my own thesis described the practical value of 'immunoglobulin and T-cell receptor gene rearrangement in the investigation of lymphoproliferative disorders', I turned to this chapter with interest. The molecular biology is clearly presented and the technique's value in the diagnosis of leukaemia clearly outlined. However, as the authors ignored their given subject and barely mention solid tissue analysis, perhaps they should have changed the chapter title! These few points aside, this is a good book which is well written and up to date; it will be a useful reference work for departments of academic haematology.

N. O'Connor
Royal Shrewsbury Hospital,
Mytton Oak Road,
Shrewsbury SY3 8XF.

Books Received

HIV Infections and AIDS, M.A. Birchall and S.M. Murphy. Pp. 128, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, Edinburgh, New York, Tokyo, 1992. Paperback, £7.95.

Imaging Strategy, B. Bury and R. Fowler. Pp. 162, illustrated. Oxford University Press, 1992. Paperback, £14.50. Hardback, £30.00.

Introduction to the Blood Brain Barrier, H. Davson, B. Zlokovic, L. Rakit and M.B. Segal. Pp. 335, illustrated. Macmillan, Basingstoke, 1993. Hardback, £55.00

Injury Epidemiology, Leon S. Robertson. Pp. vii + 241. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1992. Hardback, £30.00.

The Making of a Doctor – Medical Education in Theory and Practice, R.S. Downie and B. Charlton. Pp. xiii + 203. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1992. Hardback, £22.50.

Medical Therapeutics, P.G. Ramsey and E.B. Larson. Pp. xvii + 633, illustrated. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, London, 1992. Paperback, £9.95.