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The **Postgraduate Medical Journal** is published monthly on behalf of the Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine by the Scientific & Medical Division, Macmillan Press Ltd.

Postgraduate Medical Journal publishes original papers on subjects of current clinical importance. Each issue contains commissioned review and leading articles but unsolicited submissions are also welcome. Each issue also includes 'Letters to the Editor', book reviews and an international postgraduate diary. Many issues contain papers or abstracts of symposia devoted to a single subject, and the full proceedings of meetings are published as supplements to the *Journal*. The *Journal*, as the organ of the Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine, is dedicated to advancing the understanding and practice of postgraduate medical education and training.

The **Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine** was founded after the First World War and was a pioneer in the United Kingdom in the development of programmes of postgraduate study in all branches of medicine (see *Postgrad Med J* 61, 1). It always has been, and remains, independent of University, Health Service and Government. Currently the Fellowship works closely with the National Association of Clinical Tutors in furthering mutual aims. Amongst other activities, the Fellowship provides research grants and support for young investigators especially those working temporarily in the UK.

Further details of the Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine can be obtained from The Executive Secretary, The Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine, 12 Chandos Street, London W1M 9DE.

The Journal is covered by *Current Contents*, *Biological Abstracts*, *ASCA*, *ISI/BIOMED*, *Index Medicus*, *Excerpta Medica* and *Science Citation Index*.

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A 'Notice to Contributors' is usually published on the inside back cover of each issue. The Editor reserves the right to make changes which may clarify or condense papers where this is considered desirable.

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that single dose activated charcoal reduces absorption to a clinically significant extent following drug overdose, but based on volunteer studies undertaken in circumstances very different from those that obtain in real life or, worse still, based the results of *in vitro* investigations alone. Yet later in the same chapter, in the context of a discussion of the use of multiple dose activated charcoal (MDAC) to enhance drug elimination, the role of MDAC in phenobarbitone poisoning is questioned because 'most clinical studies [demonstrating benefit] have involved a limited number of patients'. And further on, a volunteer study which showed no apparent benefit of MDAC in salicylate overdose is criticized because the study 'did not mimic a true overdose'. Although the existence of different charcoal preparations is mentioned, the (very real) possibility that this might account for instances of pulmonary toxicity and diarrhoea attributed to activated charcoal is not examined. Amongst the various criteria that determine the likelihood of MDAC enhancing elimination of a drug, little attention is given to the importance of pK_a . Finally, despite enthusiastic advocacy of MDAC, the authors offer few *firm* indications for its use.

In contrast, the chapter dealing with the role of haemodialysis and haemoperfusion in the treatment of intoxications gives very clear indications for the deployment of these elimination procedures. There is an excellent examination of the role of sodium bicarbonate in the management of poisoned patients with a good review in particular of the experimental and clinical studies underlying its use in tricyclic antidepressant toxicity. One could argue, in the section on salicylates, that too much emphasis is placed on the need to exclude salicylate ions from the brain (as opposed to those other tissues/organs that contribute metabolically to the vicious downward spiral of metabolic acidosis), but that is a minor quibble.

The remaining chapters on immunotoxicology and specific patient management issues are also generally excellent with, in the main, clear treatment advice. That having been said, the chapter on management of the haemodynamically compromised patient considers the treatment of *hypertension* associated with monoamine oxidase inhibitor poisoning, but omits the management of the sometimes rather more difficult problem of *hypotension* in these patients. To my mind also, the chapter on management of smoke inhalation victims downplays the inhibitory effect of carbon monoxide on cytochrome oxidase activity, examines a little superficially the role and mechanisms of action of cyanide antidotes, including

oxygen, and sidesteps some of the more difficult issues surrounding the still controversial use of hyperbaric oxygen in carbon monoxide poisoning. But nonetheless this chapter remains a more useful examination of the topic.

Inevitably in a book of this nature there is some duplication of material, though there are also some apparently contradictory statements. For example, two of the chapters give different reasons to explain why urinary acidification is no longer advocated for phencyclidine overdose. There are also some typographical errors, particularly relating to the very extensive and up-to-date bibliographies, and especially to authors' names including that of this reviewer! Despite this near fatal error, I can recommend this book to clinical toxicologists as well as intensivists, to stimulate thinking and discussion, and as evidence of the increasingly strong science base that underpins a sometimes unrecognized and certainly undervalued branch of medicine, clinical toxicology.

T.J. Meredith
Department of Health,
Hannibal House,
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London SE1 6TE.

Clinical ENT, G.M. O'Donahue, G.J. Bates and A.A. Narula. Pp. x + 223, illustrated. Oxford Medical Publications, Oxford. Paperback: price not given.

This is an excellent, well-presented book with clear diagrams and good colour reproductions. The idea of key points to draw attention to the salient points of ENT helps greatly to reinforce the general text. There are minor ways in which the book could be improved, as one would expect in any new publication.

I will be happy to have it on my bookshelf and in the departmental library.

D. Worgan
Royal South Hants Hospital,
Brintons Terrace, off St Mary's Road,
Southampton SO9 4PE.

Books Received

ABC of AIDS, third edition, edited by M. Wadler. Pp. 86, illustrated. BMA, London, 1993. Paperback, £12.95.

ABC of Monitoring Drug Therapy, J.K. Aronson, M. Hardman and D.J.M. Reynolds. Pp. 37, illustrated. BMA, London, 1993. Paperback, £6.95.

Annual Review of Public Health, Volume 14, edited by G.S. Omenn, J.E. Fielding and L.B. Lave. Pp. 689, illustrated. Annual Reviews, California, 1993. Hardback, \$54.00.

- Atlas of Endocrine Imaging**, edited by G.M. Besser and M.O. Thorner. Pp. 149, illustrated. Wolfe, London, St Louis, Sydney, Toronto, 1993. Hardback, £40.00.
- Cardiology**, A.A. Grace, J.A. Hall and P.M. Schofield. Pp. 128, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, 1993. Paperback, £7.95.
- Clinical Microbiology**, seventh edition, edited by Joan Stokes, G.L. Ridgway and M.W.D. Wren. Pp. xi + 398, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London, Boston, Melbourne, 1993. Paperback, £26.50.
- Companion to Psychiatric Studies**, edited by R.E. Kendall and A.K. Zealley. Pp. vi + 955, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, Edinburgh, 1993. Hardback, £69.50.
- Contraception - Your Questions Answered**, J. Guillebaud. Pp. 484, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, Edinburgh, 1993. Paperback, £12.95.
- Disease Diagnosis and Decisions**, G.W. Bradley. Pp. 182. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, 1993. Paperback, £14.95.
- Endometrial Ablation**, edited by B.V. Lewis and A.L. Magos. Pp. 224, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, Melbourne, Tokyo, 1993. Hardback, £55.00.
- Epileptogenic & Excitotoxic Mechanisms**, edited by G. Avanzini, R. Fariello, U. Heinemann and R. Mutani. Pp. x + 158, illustrated. John Libbey, London, Paris, 1993. Hardback, £32.00.
- HIV Infection in Women**, edited by M.A. Johnson and F.D. Johnstone. Pp. 292, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, Melbourne, Tokyo, 1993. Hardback, £60.00.
- Human Anatomy - A Colour Atlas**, third edition, R.M.H. McMinn, R.T. Hutchings, J. Pegington and P.H. Abrahams. Pp. 358, illustrated. Wolfe Publishing, London, 1993. Paperback, £19.95.
- Immunocytochemistry in Diagnostic Histopathology**, B. Jasani and K. Schmid. Pp. 206, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, Tokyo, Melbourne, 1993. Hardback, £49.50.
- Immunology**, third edition, I. Roitt, J. Brostoff and D. Male. Chapters numbered individually, illustrated. Mosby, St Louis, Boston, Sydney, Toronto, 1993. Paperback, £19.95.
- MCQ Practice Papers**, P.G. Elliott. Pp. 181. Pastest, Cheshire, 1993. Paperback, £12.50.
- MCQ Tutor in Anaesthesia: Clinical Practice**, C.A. Pinnock and R.M. Haden. Pp. 302. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, Melbourne, Edinburgh, 1993. Paperback, £13.95.
- Medical Statistics - A Common Sense Approach**, M.J. Campbell and D. Machin. Pp. viii + 189, illustrated. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, 1993. Paperback, £14.95.
- Microbial and Parasitic Infection**, seventh edition, B.I. Duerden, T.M.S. Reid and J.M. Jewsbury. Pp. 438, illustrated. Edward Arnold, Kent, 1993. Paperback, £17.95.
- Molecular Aspects of Anticancer Drug-DNA Interactions**, Volume 1, edited by S. Neidle and M. Waring. Pp. xi + 363, illustrated. Macmillan Press, London, 1993. Hardback, £65.00.
- Molecular Medicine**, R.J. Trent. Pp. 239, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, Edinburgh, New York, Tokyo, 1993. Paperback, £14.95.
- North American Healthcare Policy in the 1990s**, edited by A. King, T. Hyclak and R. Thornton. Pp. xi + 284, illustrated. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, 1993. Hardback, £35.00.
- Notes for the DCH**, N.J. Gilbertson and S. Walker. Pp. 370, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, Edinburgh, New York, Tokyo, 1993. Paperback, £19.95.
- The Pathology of Trauma**, second edition, edited by J.K. Mason. Pp. 367, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London, Boston, Melbourne, Auckland, 1993. Hardback, £95.00.
- Resuscitation Handbook**, second edition, P.J.F. Baskett. Pp. 136, illustrated. Wolfe, London, St Louis, Sydney, Toronto, 1993. Paperback, £14.95.
- Return of Blood to the Heart**, second edition, A.M.N. Gardner and R.H. Fox. Pp. 268, illustrated. John Libbey, London, Paris, 1993. Hardback, £32.00.
- Textbook of Developmental Paediatrics**, M. Pollack. Pp. 584, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, Tokyo, 1993. Hardback, £37.50.
- Travel Medicine**, Volume 49, No. 2, edited by R.H. Behrens and K.P.W.J. McAdam. Pp. 484, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, Tokyo, Melbourne, 1993. Paperback, £49.95.
- Tumours of the Hand and Upper Limb**, edited by G.P. Bogumill and E.J. Fleegar. Pp. 492, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, Edinburgh, Melbourne, Tokyo, 1993. Hardback, £80.00.
- Virgin Birth**, edited by R. Silman. Pp. 114. WFT Press, London, 1991. Paperback, £10.50.
- Whenter's Functional Histology**, third edition, H.G. Burkitt, B. Young and J.W. Heath. Pp. 406, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, Edinburgh, Madrid, Melbourne, 1993. Paperback, £27.50.

Postgraduate Diary

Institute of Orthopaedics

Professional Unit Pre-Operative Conferences – Mondays 11.00 a.m. at Middlesex Hospital and Thursdays 9.30 a.m. at Stanmore.

Professorial Unit Residents' Seminars/Conferences – Thursdays 8.00 a.m. at Stanmore.

Details: Miss A.M. Lucas, Postgraduate Secretary, Institute of Orthopaedics, The Middlesex Hospital, London W1. Tel: 071-380 9418.

British Association for Surgeons of the Knee in Association with Institute of Orthopaedics

Fixation of fractures about the knee: 19 May 1994

Details: Carol Winston, Course Administrator, RNOHT, Brickley Hill, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4LP

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Trust in Association with Institute of Orthopaedics

Second Stanmore Spinal Injuries Course: 22/23 April 1994

Details: Carol Winston, Course Administrator, Teaching Centre, RNOHT, Brickley Hill, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4LP

Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine

MRCP Part II 5 day course for clinical examination;

Monday 7 February to Friday 11 February 1994

Monday 6 June to Friday 10 June 1994

Details from: Dr Geraint James, Visiting Professor of Medicine, The Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, Pond Street, Hampstead, London NW3 2QG. Tel: 071 794 0500 ext 3931.

Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Details of courses: Symposium Secretary, RPMS Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG.

Institute of Psychiatry

Psycho-social aspects of disaster: planning for the future: 10 February 1994

Women, mental health and the law: 14 and 25 February 1994

Details of these and other courses from: Mrs Lee Wilding, Short Courses Office, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, London SE5 8AF.

Royal Society of Medicine

Forum on sexual medicine and family planning 'Contraceptive implants' 20 January 1993

Information: Miss Nicole Aaron, Forums Executive, The Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE.

Roehampton Institute of Higher Education

MSc/Graduate Diploma programmes in the following: BSc in Health in Health Studies; MSc/Graduate Diplomas in 'Clinical Neuroscience' and 'Behavioural Biology and Healthcare'.

Details: The Faculty Registry Office, Faculty of Sciences, Roehampton Institute, Whitelands College, West Hill, London SW15 3SN.

Lancaster University

Basic Molecular Biology: a short course on current techniques of DNA manipulation. 10–14 April 1994.

Details: Dr Sarah Andrew, Biological Sciences Division, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YQ.

Fourth International Conference on Systemic Lupus SLE

26–31 March 1995 Jerusalem, Israel

Information: Fourth International Conference on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel.

University of Leeds

Philosophical ethics in reproductive medicine 18–21 April 1994

Details: Mrs H. Thackray, Department of Continuing Professional Education, Continuing Education Building, Springfield Mount, Leeds LS2 9NG.

International Conference on Biomedical Periodicals

16–18 June 1994 Beijing

Further information: Dr Jiang Yongmao, Secretary of Organising Committee, Chinese Medical Association, 42 Dongsixidajie, Beijing 100710, China.

Institute of Health Services Management

Master Class Workshops: 16 March The theory of quality. 30 March and 7 April: Techniques for improving quality

Full details of Workshops, and details of other courses from: Conference Secretary, IHSM, 39 Chalton Street, London NW1 1JD

American College of Physicians

Internal Medicine: a Southeast Asia Perspective. 16–19 February 1994. Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Details: ACP, PO Box 7777R0510, Philadelphia, PA 19175-0320, USA

University of California, San Diego

Advanced nephrology: nephrology for the consultant 19–22 January 1994

Details: Complete Conference Management, PO Box 82664, San Diego, CA 92138, USA.

Progression of atherosclerosis in anginal syndromes and heart transplantation

International conference: 23–24 June 1994. Palazzo dei Congressi, Lugano, Switzerland

Information: PD Dr. med. A. Gallino, Head Division of Cardiology, Ospedale San Giovanni, 6500 Bellinzona, Switzerland.

National Continence Week

13–19 March 1994

Further information: Christine Norton, Director, The Continence Foundation, 2 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2PH.

Action on Pre-Eclampsia

Low-dose aspirin for high-risk pregnancy

Friday 11 March 1994 at Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, London NW1 4RG.

Information: Jean Corroll, WellBeing, 27 Sussex Place, London NW1 4SP.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL TUTORS

The Association assists clinical tutors in their role as leaders in district medical education. Membership is open to University-appointed clinical and GP tutors. The Association arranges courses for the training and continuing professional development of clinical tutors and holds Winter and Summer Meetings for all members.

13 May 1994: Spring Meeting: Bristol.
2 December 1994 Winter Meeting: London.

Information about the NACT and its activities can be obtained from The Secretariat, National Association of Clinical Tutors, 12 Chandos Street, London W1M 9DE. Tel: 071 636 6334.

EUROPEAN DOCTORS IN LONDON

**European Medical
Research Group**

**Fellowship of
Postgraduate Medicine**

The European Medical Research Group has been formed by the European Association of Internal Medicine with the support of the Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine, to provide a meeting place for professional and social contact among physicians in training, particularly those from continental Europe. Regular meetings are held at the Medical Society of London. An invited lecture is given, preceded by poster presentations and followed by a buffet supper.

Members of the Group are mailed regularly about the meetings. Next meeting: Thursday 24th February 1994.

European research fellows and other visiting doctors who would like details of these meetings should write to:

**Dr D.R.J. Singer, c/o The Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine,
12 Chandos Street, London W1M 9DE. Tel: 071 636 6334**

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Typescripts Two complete copies should be sent to the Editor, *Postgraduate Medical Journal*, 12 Chandos Street, London W1M 9DE. Papers must be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of paper not larger than A4 (297 mm × 210 mm), with a 5 cm margin. The first page of the typescript should bear the names of the author(s) and the name and address of the laboratory or institution where the work has been carried out, in addition to the title of the paper. The full address and fax number of the principal author to whom proofs will be sent should be given as a footnote, as should any permanent changes of address and/or appointment. A short (running) title of not more than 45 characters should be given. All pages should be numbered including the title page. In line with many other journals, we do not normally return rejected manuscripts.

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Arrangement Papers should be divided into; (a) Title page, (b) Summary, (c) Introduction, (d) Materials and methods, (e) Results, (f) Discussion, (g) Acknowledgements, (h) References, (i) Tables, (j) Figures and captions. The summary should not exceed 250 words and should state concisely what was done, the main findings and how the work was interpreted. In all sections of the paper numbered paragraphs should be avoided if at all possible.

Style Abbreviations and symbols must be standard and SI units used throughout. Acronyms should be used sparingly and must be fully explained when first used. Whenever possible drugs should be given their approved generic name. Where a proprietary (brand) name must be used, it should begin with a capital letter. Statistical analyses must explain the methods used. The use of footnotes is not permitted. Single quotation marks should be used and words to be italicized should be underlined. The *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* is used as a reference for all spelling and hyphenation.

References should follow the Vancouver format. In the text, they should appear as numbers starting at 1. At the end of the paper they should be listed (double-spaced) in numerical order corresponding to the order of citation in the text. All authors should be quoted for papers with up to six authors; for papers with more than six authors, the first three only should be quoted followed by *et al.* Abbreviations for titles of medical periodicals should conform to those used in the latest

edition of *Index Medicus*. The first and last page numbers for each reference should be provided. Abstracts and letters must be identified as such.

1. Clements, R. & Gravelle, I.H. Radiological appearances of hydatid disease in Wales. *Postgrad Med J* 1986, **62**: 167–173.
2. Greenberger, J.S. Long-term hematopoietic cultures. In: Golde, W. (ed) *Hematopoiesis*. Churchill-Livingstone, New York, 1984, pp 203–242.

Figures In the text Arabic numbers should be used and all illustrations should be specifically referred to in the text, e.g. (Figure 2). All illustrations should be submitted at about 1½ times the intended final size and should be numbered as figures whether they are photographs, representational drawings or line diagrams and graphs.

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Tables These should be as few as possible and should present only essential data. They should be typewritten on separate sheets, have a title or caption, and given Roman numbers.

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