

**Acupuncture, Trigger Points and Musculoskeletal Pain**, 2nd edition, P.E. Baldry. Pp. 347, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, Edinburgh, New York, Tokyo, 1993. Hardback, £35.00.

It is infrequent that a book is published the contents of which can significantly change ones concept and mode of practice. However, such a book is Peter Baldry's treatise on *Acupuncture, Trigger Points and Musculoskeletal Pain*, the first edition of which appeared in 1989. Since that time, many people have learned much from the work and have used the well chosen words of wisdom to benefit their clinical practice.

Also, during the intervening years, the author has updated the work such that the second edition now presents a more comprehensive and contemporary picture. In this edition, several chapters in the section dealing with the principles of trigger point acupuncture have been considerably extended in order to incorporate recent advances in knowledge concerning the neurophysiology of pain, methods employed in the diagnosis of myofascial trigger point pain and to detail a contemporary picture of the endogenous pain modulating mechanisms involved in relieving this type of pain.

There has also been the need to include a new chapter dealing with the significant differences between myofascial pain syndromes and the generalized fibromyalgia syndrome.

This has to be an essential book for anyone with an interest in pain management at whatever level. As such, one of its detractors is the size of the volume; it would be more attractive if it could be fitted into a whitecoat pocket. Perhaps, with the current widespread availability of the latest changes in physiology and biochemistry of nociception, the relevant chapter should be less general and concentrate on the specifics related to the topic of the book. Nevertheless, these are minor blemishes in an otherwise excellent book.

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**Imaging for Surgeons**, D. Lisle. Pp. xxviii + 296, illustrated. Edward Arnold, Kent, 1993. Hardback £65.00.

A professor of anatomy from New York and a radiologist from Brisbane, Australia, have collaborated and produced this generously illustrated work. The text is a model of clarity and uses a step-by-step protocol to lead the investigator along the correct algorithm. Topics range from the acute abdomen and abdominal trauma to imaging in breast and cardiac disease. A section on liver and kidney transplantation is included, and all imaging modalities (including MRI) are covered. The illustrations are numerous and varied, and are particularly well annotated. In several of them a very dark print ruins detail (Fig. 3.8.39 small bowel, Fig. 4.9 biliary stent amongst others). Surgical trainees and medical students should be the main beneficiaries of this work. However,

attendance at weekly clinico-radiological meetings in any major centre should collate the same information for less than the £65.00 required by the publishers.

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**Disorders of the Cardiovascular System**, D. Patterson and T. Treasure. Pp. 356, illustrated. Edward Arnold, Hodder & Stoughton, Kent, 1993. Paperback, £29.95.

This book is the companion to *Cardiovascular Physiology* produced in 1993 by FitzSimmons and Barnes and provides, in the authors' words, 'an introduction to the subject for students and for junior doctors who have not yet entered higher specialist training'. In keeping with the contemporary cardiology scene the book starts with coronary artery disease and is followed by chapters on the other major causes of cardiovascular disease including peripheral arterial and venous disease. Chapters on the electrocardiogram and echocardiography are sandwiched rather awkwardly between these other subjects so that the reader with little prior knowledge would find it difficult to follow without constant cross-reference. A valuable chapter on the psychological aspects of heart disease contains many concepts not commonly covered in a textbook at this level.

This book is a useful introduction to the subject, but when more complex ideas are introduced, for example, vector cardiography, they receive rather superficial treatment. References where given are very limited and serve little useful purpose, but in general, the layout is good. Line illustrations were of high quality but ECG illustrations were rather mixed. The current A4 format does not lend itself very well to photo-reduction, the background grid frequently obscuring details of the trace itself.

A competent book, but will it be a success? This hinges on whether, with its companion book, it serves a useful niche in the medical curriculum. The surgical emphasis, though valuable background reading, is probably not of much interest to the M.R.C.P. candidate. The medical student and house physician would, I suspect, be more likely to look to a general textbook as a source of reference.

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**Medical Education**, S. Lowry. Pp.98, illustrated. British Medical Association, London, 1993. Paperback, £6.95.

Stella Lowry's imaginative and perceptive review of the undergraduate medical curriculum in the United King-