disappointed by the short review on primary sclerosing cholangitis, which included references only up to 1990. Particularly frustrating was the lack of editorial guidance to the various authors, for instance, the section on laparoscopic cholecystectomy included details of technique which is surely of little relevance to the average physician. The main advantage of this volume is its relatively low price and therefore the series can be recommended to hospital libraries, but the individual physician would be better subscribing to a few journals for more even editorial content.

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Fraud and Misconduct in Medical Research, edited by S. Lock and F. Wells. Pp. 200. British Medical Journal, London, 1993. Hardback, £24.95.

This small book addresses the problems of fraud in science and particularly medicine. It provides an overview of the subject from various perspectives and is authoritative, well written and well referenced.

The modern recognition of misconduct in medical research dates from 1974 when Summerlin used a felt-tip to fake a black skin transplant on a white mouse, although previous examples of fraud such as Sir Cyril Burt's invention of data on twins and Piltdown Man are also noted.

The motives for dishonest practice are variously examined, but boil down to greed and pressure to publish. The monograph studies various ways in which fraud may be controlled but does not consider the most sensible option of dramatically reducing the number of publications: by removing at least half of the journals cited by *Index Medicus* and restricting the number of papers quoted for a senior medical or scientific post to between 6–10, as well as restricting the number of authors per paper.

This is a good, interesting book, although not a 'ripping

good yarn', with lots of good anecdotes. 'Betrayers of the Truth' by Broad and Wade is more fun but it is not as authoritative.

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ABC of Diabetes, 3rd edition, P.K. Buxton. Pp. 56, illustrated. British Medical Association, London, 1993. Paperback, £7.95.

This remains an excellent practical guide for the management of diabetes. Changes in this edition include a helpful discussion of the indications for insulin in non-insulin-dependent patients. With increasing awareness that there is more to diabetes than hyperglycaemia, management aims now include the control of hyperlipidaemia and hypertension. One controversial recommendation is for routine screening of all pregnant women for gestational diabetes but with a high 2 hour blood glucose cut-off level of 9 mmol/l. More selective screening with a lower cut-off may be more effective. There is recognition of the organization of care of the essential role of nurses who feature above dieticians, chiropodists and doctors in the text though not in the accompanying table.

I would find the book more readable if it were set out conventionally rather than in the jumbled way that the *British Medical Journal* seems to require for its ABC series. The photographs illustrating insulin injection technique and blood glucose monitoring are much clearer than in the previous edition. On the other hand, many of the illustrations are unclear and superfluous. What is the purpose of a line drawing of a telephone (although the advice to give patients your home telephone number is welcome), or a packet of contraceptive pills, or a photograph of an ophthalmoscope, and why has the section on necrobiosis been moved from the complications section to the chapter on the assessment of diabetes?

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