Book Reviews

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.

This book is dedicated to an important development in recent gynaecological surgery, namely endometrial ablation/resection. It has been produced with the contribution of 27 experienced clinicians and scientists. It provides a very comprehensive update on the techniques, results and complications of endometrial ablation. It is well referenced and very well illustrated with colour plates. The editors are to be congratulated for their success in bringing together various experienced surgeons to cover different techniques of endometrial ablation/resection. The techniques of endometrial resection, laser ablation, electrocoagulation and radiofrequency ablation are all described in detail. In addition, the chapter on fibroids was very well written and clearly presented.

Apart from the discussion of clinical techniques and results, the book also covers a number of important issues including safety and training, patient selection, fluid infusion system and anaesthetic considerations. A further chapter on pathology provides an interesting insight into how different techniques achieve the same results, and a further chapter on epidemiology provides stimulating discussion on the analogy between the lack of proper evaluation in the early experience of transurethral resection for benign prostatic hypertrophy and endometrial resection in generating great uncertainty concerning long-term results and side effects.

In essence, this is a comprehensive text-book on endometrial ablation which should be available on the shelf of every medical library and should be of interest to practising gynaecologists as well as those in training. It is hoped that in subsequent editions, there may be an additional chapter on division of uterine septum and adhesions, as well as on hysteroscopic cannulation of fallopian tubes; and more discussion on long-term results (which is not currently available).

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Learning Medicine 1994, P. Richards. Pp. 108, illustrated. BMJ, London, 1993. Paperback £5.95.

This is the eleventh edition of a small illustrated paperback written 'to help those considering a career in medicine to discover what medicine and a medical education is all about'. It takes the reader through medical education chronologically. It begins with the reasons for choosing medicine as a career, moving to how to choose a medical school and how to get in, with a list of current entry requirements for all the UK medical schools. It describes the course, and finishes with career opportunities for young doctors. It is nicely written and easy to read, with several interesting quotations from poets, authors, doctors and medical students. The student perspective is particularly well illustrated by short sec-

tions written by students on their impressions of different aspects of clinical life.

Professor Richards mentions that the courses in UK medical colleges are in the midst of reform but has concentrated his description on a more traditional curriculum. Although the number of students taught in this way is decreasing with the advent of newer curricula and the changes proposed by the GMC, the book gives a good overview, and includes a synopsis of the GMC guidelines for Undergraduate Medical Education as an appendix.

Considering that the medical profession is in turmoil, the book is sensitively up to date, addressing issues like the career prospects of women doctors and the reduction in junior doctors' hours. It will continue to be a good read for aspiring medical undergraduates and an excellent resource for school careers officers.

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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.

This little soft-backed book should prove useful to those taking the final Fellowship examination. In the preface the authors refer to the anaesthesia diploma examination. Anaesthesia is a noun not an adjective and this usage is American. After a bad start, I actually enjoyed some aspects of this presentation. In fact, the authors have developed a particularly useful design, that is, multiple choice followed by a brief explanation. I wonder why when I was unclear about an answer the authors used their second line of assistance, they quoted a reference, which I did of course not have available so I didn't know if I had guessed correctly or incorrectly.

For this reason I feel that the book fails to achieve its full potential, largely because, in spite of a superb design, it cannot be read on its own. That said, it has a lot going for it and the FRCA Final candidate will certainly find it a useful revision aide. I should buy it if I were a candidate, though it would make me despair at times when, at a late hour, I would find myself referred to as a reference.

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Immunocytochemistry in Diagnostic Histopathology, B. Jasani and K. Schmid. Pp. 206, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, Tokyo, Melbourne, 1993. Hardback £49.50.