cussed above, this book sets a new standard for clarity and will be of enormous value to health professionals, researchers, and a resource for planners. At £13.50 it is also good value.

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Causes of Diabetes – Genetic and Environmental Factors, edited by R.D.G. Leslie. Pp. xiii + 355. John Wiley, Chichester, New York, Brisbane, Toronto, 1993. Hardback £60.00.

This is an excellent book. It contains 17 clearly written, authoritative, up-to-date chapters, each fully referenced. Dr Leslie has done a magnificent job as sole editor. The book is divided into two halves, the first dealing with insulin-dependent and the second with non-insulin-dependent diabetes. We live in an age when genes are seen by many as the cause even of such common diseases as diabetes, rather than simply providing the milieu in which environmental factors operate. The first chapter of each half of the book is thus devoted to candidate genes. There then follow chapters on epidemiology, family and twin studies, viruses, toxins, nutritional factors, thrifty genotypes, insulin-resistance syndrome and other risk factors. Each half of the book ends with a chapter entitled 'Towards prevention'.

It would be invidious to select any particular authors for special praise when they comprise such a feast of talent: K.G.M.M. Alberti, D.J.P. Barker, A.H. Barnett, P.J. Bingley, D.A. Cavan, E. Connor, J. Cook, G. Dahlquist, R.B. Elliot, A.M. Gale, G.A. Hitman, W.C. Knoler, J.E. Manson, M. Matsushima, E.J. Mayer, D.R. McCance, M. McCarthy, N. McClaren, D.K. Nagi, B. Newman, K. O'Dea, Y.H. Park, D.J. Pettitt, D.I.W. Phillips, J.V. Selby, A. Spelsberg, N. Tajima, R. Turner, M. Walker, J.W. Yoon and P. Zimmet.

This is an essential book for the library and for anyone with a serious interest in diabetes.

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Current Surgical Practice, Volume 7, edited by M. Hobsley, A.G. Johnson and T. Treasure. Pp. 187, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London, 1993. Paperback £32.50.

It was a pleasure to read this new addition to the series based on lectures given at the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The book is clearly aimed at candidates for the current College Fellowship Examination and the spread of topics is admirably broad. There are two chapters on coronary disease and chapters to cover aspects of urology, biliary, paediatric and gynaecological surgery. The review of the treatment of surgery of the

spleen in the tropics is interesting, clear and concise with a good summary of the evidence for post-splenectomy sepsis and splenic preservations. The references in this chapter were appropriate, although candidates would be well advised to read them.

More general topics were covered in chapters on venous access, management of acute pain and tumour immunology. There is good balance between scientific reviews and clinical descriptions, particularly pathology.

The book starts with a symposium on the application of stents in biliary, urethral and coronary artery obstruction. This symposium is timely, but it is disappointing to see such a short discussion (six and a half lines) of self-expanding metal stents in the biliary chapter. Perhaps if the editors had allowed more than 6 months since the appearance of the previous volume this aspect could have been dealt with more fully. The book is also thinner than its predecessors and one wonders if less haste could have produced more chapters.

The book is well illustrated but one section of this reviewer's copy was printed faintly, which impaired the quality of the radiographic reproductions. However, this is a book which candidates for the Part II of the Fellowship Examination will certainly wish to read and Postgraduate Medical Centre libraries should add it to their sequence of earlier volumes.

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Clinical Microbiology, 7th edition, E. Joan Stokes, G.L. Ridgway and M.W.D. Wren. Pp. xi + 398, illustrated. Edward Arnold, London, Boston, Melbourne, Auckland, 1993. Paperback £26.50.

Previous editions of the book entitled *Clinical Bacteriology* with the first-named single author must have been read or used by most, if not all of the senior medical microbiologists in UK today. It is pleasing to see the name of the book changed to *Clinical Microbiology* under three authorships in this edition. Many developments in clinical microbiology have occurred since the publication of the previous edition. Thus, most of the chapters have been thoroughly revised. Chapters on fungal infections and diagnostic parasitology are written by experts in respective fields, other than the three authors.

The book covers clinical practice, general procedures, culture, identification of common microbes, laboratory control of antibiotics, hospital epidemiology, media and techniques. At the end there is an appendix containing addresses of manufacturers and suppliers. This might be of additional benefit to some readers. There are just a few minor points to criticize. Authors failed to mention use of boric acid for transporting urine to laboratories from far away places. What is the purpose of addition of PABA routinely to blood culture media when there is very little use of sulphonamides? Why should CSF be inoculated into fastidious anaerobe broth? And is it still necessary to examine all throat swabs for *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* routinely in UK?