

has changed and grown a little (666 pages in 1986). The editors justify both – the latter largely as a result of commissioning specialist clinicians to contribute – and disarmingly admit to some resultant inconsistencies.

It is a sturdily bound paperback and should sustain regular use. The text and figures are clearly set out, but the photographs barely achieve their aim – they certainly necessitate the supplementary use of an atlas. The inevitable march of progress has deprived us of a Titian Venus in the new chapter on obesity!

Complex clinical issues are dealt with quite briskly, but each section appeared up to date and accurate with few typographical errors. Despite a 49-page index the cross-referencing is disappointing. Examples are iron deficiency in intestinal failure/malabsorption yields unhelpful suggested pages, although the topic is addressed appropriately (briefly) in the chapter on gastrointestinal disease, and resting energy expenditure is barely linked by the index to the key chapter in which it is discussed. Computer-generated indexing of future editions should help. The appendices provide a compendium of useful nutritional data not readily available together elsewhere.

I concentrated my assessment on aspects relevant to the reader of the *Postgraduate Medical Journal* and his or her students; this is only one approach to a thoroughly recommendable book which should be in every medical library. Medical students will probably not wish to buy it but should certainly refer to it. Dieticians, non-medical nutritionists, and non-specialist clinicians whose work touches on nutrition, should want it on their shelves. It is excellent value for money.

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ABC of Child Abuse, 2nd Edition, edited by R. Meadow. Pp. 75, illustrated. BMJ, London, 1993. Paperback, £12.95.

The first edition of this excellent guide to child abuse appeared 4 years ago and was immediately recognized as providing, within one slim volume, a distillation of the collective views of experts. The second edition has been updated by the addition of some newer areas. These include the ophthalmic presentations of abuse and an extremely useful chapter which deals with the guiding principles of the Children Act 1989, the various Court Orders which may be made and the procedural steps involved.

There is an increasing need for all doctors who deal professionally with children to be sensitive to the early warning signs and presentation of the many forms of child abuse, and alert to those physical signs that are suggestive of abuse and those which are indicative.

The *ABC of Child Abuse* is clear and lucid with simple, easily absorbed, yet comprehensive descriptions of the varied forms of abuse, accompanied by an extremely generous provision of superb illustrations. Management too is very adequately dealt with. The reader is provided with one of the simplest and easiest routes available to acquire knowledge and understanding of various types of

abuse, confidence in their recognition and an appreciation of the skills and contribution to be made by other professionals in the context of a multidisciplinary approach to child protection.

Despite its simplicity of style, much detailed information is contained within the chapters of this book which may also serve as a useful source of reference to those experienced in this field of clinical practice. It is highly recommended.

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600 MCQs in Anaesthesia: Basic Sciences, 2nd Edition. N.W. Goodman and C. Johnson. Pp. 292. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, Tokyo, Melbourne, 1993. Paperback, £11.95.

The second edition of this paperback is aimed at Part II of the examination, the questions being set out in 20 papers of 30 questions in an attempt to simulate an examination. Many of the questions are repeated and I expected to find 600 *different* questions.

The introduction is worth reading but the authors do not necessarily follow their own advice by introducing ambiguous, devious and trick questions and state 'that agents that are no longer available or rarely used should not appear in multiple choice examinations'. Perhaps they are unaware that decamethonium is no longer in current use and ecothiopate is no longer available in the UK.

The section on physics is reasonable and examination candidates will be hard pressed on the physiology. However, there are too many inconsistencies, especially in pharmacology, where many of the questions are still valid; the answers require updating. Neostigmine is said to have no effect at the presynaptic sites but there is evidence to the contrary from animal experiments. The knowledgeable candidate will be penalized for being knowledgeable. Again it is stated that neostigmine, quite correctly, increases peristalsis but to say that it causes diarrhoea is only a presumption.

The value of this volume, for which there is still room for improvement, is for those candidates who already know the subject and are interested in the technique of answering multiple choice questions. It might be more profitable to concentrate on the mighty Goodman (and Gilman).

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HIV and AIDS – Your Questions Answered, G. Barter, S. Barton and B. Gazzard. Pp. 196, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, Tokyo, Melbourne, Madrid, 1993. Paperback, £11.95.

The chief appeal of this book is its easy to read style. Using a question and answer approach, the authors have

attempted to address many of the issues around HIV and AIDS. Consequently the book is neither a reference nor a patients' guide, but it does to a large extent fill the gap between the two. This is an easy introduction to HIV disease, however, and is intended for those health care workers who are new to the subject or who might have a small HIV practice.

The questions and answers are conveniently slotted into several chapters which range from AIDS epidemiology through to zidovudine therapy. There is also a short chapter suggesting further reading and some practical information with a useful listing of services and addresses. Because new data about HIV disease are published at a prolific rate, some of the factual information around anti-retrovirals and opportunistic infection already needs revision, but most of the information and practical advice was well-informed, concise and very easy to read.

I particularly enjoyed the ethical issues chapter which revolves around several case histories based on both fact and fiction. These could easily form the basis of group discussion. There is an obvious need for a book like this in general practice surgeries, in health care clinics and advice centres and might be of interest to HIV-positive patients.

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New Trends in Nuclear Neurology and Psychiatry, D.C. Costa, G.F. Morgan and N.A. Lassen. Pp. 180, illustrated. John Libbey, London, Paris, Rome, 1993. Hard-back, £24.00.

The use of radiolabelled cerebral perfusion agents and receptor ligands, the distribution of which in the brain can be mapped using single-photon emission tomography (SPET) is at the cutting edge of the diagnosis of several neuropsychiatric disorders. Consequently papers on these topics are constituting an ever-increasing proportion of nuclear medicine and neuropsychiatric conferences.

This small and readily digestible book effectively consists of the proceedings of a post-congress meeting with the same name as the title, held on the island of Madeira following the 1992 Annual Congress of the European Association of Nuclear Medicine. The lectures presented (and therefore the topics covered in the book) commence with the historical background and proceed to a discussion of the physiological basis for brain imaging with radionuclides, the radiopharmaceuticals available and the use of SPET in dementia. The book terminates with a discussion of clinical applications.

The bulk of the topics deal with basic sciences such as the underlying physiology, pharmacy, physics and instrumentation. Of these, the most fascinating is an historical discussion of the mapping of regional cerebral blood flow by one of the co-authors and supreme expert on the subject, Niels Lassen of Denmark. The discussion on the relevant pharmaceuticals (the perfusion tracers iodine-123 amphetamine and technetium-99mHMPAO and the D₂ receptor-specific ligand, iodine-123 iodobenzamide (IBZM)) is also particularly well done.

Of main interest to the clinician are the three chapters dealing with clinical applications. The first of these, written from the point of view of the neurologist, reviews the use of SPET in stroke, dementia and epilepsy, which are amongst the most developed areas of clinical application. The following chapter is devoted more specifically to radionuclide imaging in psychiatry with special emphasis placed upon resting and activation studies following specific behaviour patterns or tasks set the patient. The clinical discussions end with a comprehensive review by a group of workers from Milan, who discuss the correlation of these studies with magnetic resonance imaging and spectroscopy. Such studies provide the anatomical substructure on which the PET or SPET studies can be superimposed.

The appendix might arguably be considered the most valuable section of the book, as it is virtually an atlas of normal and abnormal cerebral perfusion and neuroreceptor SPET studies. It includes examples of Alzheimer's and multi-infarct dementia, stroke, ictal and interictal epilepsy, the encephalitides and tumours. The section ends with several D₂ neuroreceptor maps as well as one or two multiple-tracer studies of both cerebral perfusion and neuroreceptor distribution, notably in Wilson's disease. The coloured illustrations and line drawings are of the highest quality.

The book as a whole is clearly and lucidly written, and in only 150 pages of text the editors and co-authors have succeeded in producing an extremely useful synopsis of the field, which will appeal both to specialists and trainees. It is essential reading for neurologists and psychiatrists.

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Handbook of Paediatric Neurology and Neurosurgery, S.J. Gaskill and A.E. Marlin. Pp. 252. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Madrid, Melbourne, 1993. Paper-back, £27.00.

This pocket book aims to provide information on most aspects of paediatric neurology and neurosurgery. It has a definite North American flavour. The amount of information provided in the 242 pages is quite extraordinary but there are curious omissions. Disorders are divided into simple chapter headings such as infections and encephalopathies. Unfortunately there is little or no cross-referencing between chapters. For example, inborn errors are not listed as causes of metabolic encephalopathies and little attention is drawn to the encephalopathic features seen in many of the disorders covered in the metabolic chapter. The chapter on embryology and diagnostic testing are both useful. The choice of the dysmorphic syndromes is strange with omission of Angelmann's syndrome, for example. The chapter on infections includes arboviral and Western equine encephalitis but does not mention *Herpes simplex* or *Mycoplasma* encephalitis. *Herpes simplex* is only mentioned in relation to TORCH screening.