

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.

A. Pozniak
King's College Hospital Medical School,
Bessemer Road,
London SE5 9PJ.

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.

B.J. Shepton
Department of Radiology,
Radcliffe Infirmary,
Woodstock Road,
Oxford OX2 6HE.

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

Perhaps not surprisingly given the vast number of disorders covered, mistakes are to be found. Phenylketonuria screening is said to miss 10% of all cases. Non-ketotic hyperglycaemia is called non-ketotic hyperglycaemia and methylmalonic acidemia is omitted even though it is one of the commoner organic acidemias. Little or no mention is made of the newer diagnostic molecular techniques, for example, deletion screening in Duchenne muscular dystrophy which has greatly simplified diagnosis.

This book will appeal to those who like lists and, although it contains a lot of useful information, it is not the totally reliable 'on the spot' guide it is billed to be on the back cover.

J. Collins
Newcomen Centre,
Guy's Hospital,
St Thomas Street,
London SE1 9RT.

Practical Renal Medicine, R. Gabriel. Pp. 360, illustrated. Blackwell Scientific, London, Edinburgh, Boston, Melbourne, 1993. Hardback, £59.50.

In the preface to *Practical Renal Medicine*, Roger Gabriel points out that, although there are many textbooks of renal medicine, most neglect or trivialize the practicalities of the subject. In this book he attempts and succeeds to redress this imbalance by drawing on the expertise of many non-nephrologists, as well as nephrologists, who are intimately involved in the care of renal patients. The practical nursing, radiological, microbiological, and obstetric aspects of nephrology are covered in a clear and orderly fashion. Nephrology occupies approximately 20% of general medicine so that this book is relevant to all specialities.

Many of the potentially confusing aspects of nephrology, such as acid-base and electrolyte disorders are clearly and concisely presented. Case histories, tables and flow diagrams are used for clarity.

There are five chapters devoted almost exclusively to renal investigations. This bias underlines the message that appropriate investigations if performed properly will yield maximum information, and help to avoid unnecessary and expensive investigations, as well as many iatrogenic complications of renal disease. The remaining 17 chapters deal with a wide range of other nephrological problems. No attempt, however, has been made to deal with the practical issues in dialysis and transplantation as the book is not aimed at the committed nephrologist, but at undergraduates, junior hospital doctors and non-medical staff involved with the care of renal patients.

This is not only a book for the quiet library but also for the busy nursing station where it could be consulted by doctors and nurses alike who wish to know how best to ensure that patients who develop nephrological problems are investigated and treated appropriately.

A. Burns
Royal Free Hospital,
Lawn Road Division,
Hampstead,
London NW3 2QG.

Perkin's and Hansell's Atlas of Diseases of the Eye, 4th Edition, D. O'Neill. Pp. 108, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, London, New York, Tokyo, Melbourne, 1993. Paperback, £27.50.

The purpose of the fourth edition of this concise atlas is to help medical students, general practitioners and non-specialists recognize a broad range of common, and not so common, ocular disorders. The main strength of the book lies in its collection of illustrations, some 250 in all. These consist mainly of retinal and anterior segment photographs supplemented with some line diagrams and drawings. They are mostly of excellent clarity and will greatly aid the beginner in identification. The text is divided into small concise and easily read chapters logically set out and which complement the illustrations. It is a pity, however, that an explanation of some of the diagnostic techniques – particularly fluorescein angiography – which are referred to in the text have not been included. This atlas is by far the best in its class and I would thoroughly recommend it.

B. Freeman
Leighton Hospital,
Middlewich Road,
Crewe,
Cheshire CN1 4JQ.

Liver Transplantation: Practice and Management, edited by J. Neuberger and M.R. Lucey. Pp. 400, illustrated. BMJ, London, 1994. Paperback, £27.95.

I was pleased indeed to be asked to review this book on *Liver Transplantation*, written as it is by two old King's fellows – old only in terms of when they were on the Unit. Indeed, the book has all the freshness one would expect from physicians at the forefront of transplantation medicine. It is essentially a practical account as to when to refer the patient and how to manage before, during and after transplantation. As such it differs from the other volumes already available in this country and in the USA. The treatment protocols and recommendations are clearly stated and the diagrams helpful. With the mixture of English and American chapters, the reader will learn not only what is happening in this country but also of the different issues that face the further development of this important treatment area in the United States. The chapter on donor retrieval, allocation and logistics contains a full description of the UNOS system in North America and it is of interest to have this so clearly described for comparison with our own much smaller UK TSSA. The book, according to the editors, is directed towards the increasing number of primary care physicians who look after patients who are either potential recipients or who have already received a liver allograft, being designed to remedy deficiencies in accessible information – they have certainly succeeded in their aim.

R. Williams
Institute of Liver Studies,
King's College Hospital,
Denmark Hill,
London SE5 9RS.