

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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