

Boeke/Books

Books Received/Boeke Ontvang

- Oral Implantology.** By A. Schroeder, F. Sutter and G. Krekeler. Pp. xiv + 374. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1991.
- Perspectives on Mental Handicap in South Africa.** By S. Lea and D. Foster. R45 (excl GST). Pp. xi + 304. Durban: Butterworths. 1990.
- Atlas of Hernia Surgery.** By G. E. Wantz. Pp. ix + 230. New York: Raven Press. 1991.
- AIDS and You.** Pp. 64. London: The Chameleon Press. 1988.
- How To Do It: 2.** Pp. x + 208. London: British Medical Journal. 1989.
- How to Do It: 3.** Pp. x + 203. London: British Medical Journal. 1990.
- ABC of AIDS.** Ed. by M. W. Adler. Pp. 72. London: British Medical Journal. 1991.
- ABC of One to Seven.** by H. B. Valman. Pp. 129. London: British Medical Journal. 1989.
- ABC of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.** By D. Davies. Pp. 67. London: British Medical Journal. 1985.
- ABC of Resuscitation.** 2nd ed. Ed. by T. R. Evans. Pp. 72. London: British Medical Journal. 1990.
- ABC of Dermatology.** By P. K. Buxton. Pp. 91. London: British Medical Journal. 1990.
- ABC of Sexually Transmitted Diseases.** 2nd ed. Pp. 71. London: British Medical Journal. 1990.
- ABC of Diabetes.** By P. J. Watkins. Pp. 51. London: British Medical Journal. 1989.
- ABC of Nutrition.** By A. S. Truswell. Pp. 93. London: British Medical Journal. 1989.
- ABC of Healthy Travel.** By E. Walker and G. Williams. Pp. 48. London: British Medical Journal. 1989.
- ABC of Eyes.** By A. R. Elkington and P. T. Khaw. Pp. 55. London: British Medical Journal. 1988.
- ABC of Ear, Nose and Throat.** By H. Ludman. Pp. 58. London: British Medical Journal. 1989.
- ABC of Clinical Genetics.** By H. M. Kingston. Pp. 62. London: British Medical Journal. 1990.
- ABC of Child Abuse.** By R. Meadow. Pp. 59. London: British Medical Journal. 1989.
- ABC of Transfusion.** By M. Contreras. Pp. 66. London: British Medical Journal. 1990.
- ABC of Major Trauma.** Ed. by D. Skinner, P. Driscoll and R. Earlam. Pp. 117. London: British Medical Journal. 1991.
- ABC of Spinal Cord Injury.** By D. Grundy, J. Rossell and A. Swain. Pp. 56. London: British Medical Journal. 1989.
- ABC of Alcohol.** Ed. by A. Paton. Pp. 35. London: British Medical Journal. 1989.
- ABC of Asthma.** 2nd ed. By J. Rees and J. Price. Pp. 31. London: British Medical Journal.
- ABC of Poisoning. Part I — Drugs.** By J. Henry and G. Volans. Pp. 76. London: British Medical Journal. 1984.
- ABC of Brain Stem Death.** By C. Pallis. Pp. 33. London: British Medical Journal. 1989.
- ABC of Hypertension.** Pp. 52. London: British Medical Journal. 1988.
- IPCS: Environmental Health Criteria 107: Barium.** Pp. 148. Illustrated. SFr. 17. Geneva: WHO. 1990.

Behavioural medicine

Clinical Health Psychology: A Behavioural Medicine Perspective. Ed. by L. Schlebusch. Pp. xxii + 366. Illustrated. Halfway House: Southern Book Publishers. 1990.

According to the introduction, this text is directed to students and professionals as both a primer and a guide for practising health care specialists. It is simultaneously intended for health care workers from various disciplines, ranging from the social sciences (psychologists, social workers) to the medical sciences (physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists). It is also concerned with Western, urban health care as well as with developing, predominantly African communities.

Such wide-ranging ideals are indeed difficult to achieve, particularly in one volume. While this book succeeds most admirably in achieving some of these goals it does, unfortunately, fall short of others.

The text is most praiseworthy in its clear orientation towards a bio-psychosocial model of health care. In adopting this approach it has, appropriately, selected from rather than concentrated on psychological theory.

The first part of the book deals with theoretical conceptualisa-

tions of psychosocial applications to health care, and is more applicable to the social science theorist than the medical practitioner. It is complex and detailed and directed to the specialist rather than the undergraduate student. The second half of the text is an application of bio-psychosocial models to areas of medical specialisation, and is most useful for the practising health care worker. While a few of these chapters are superficial and scanty, most are excellent reviews of present knowledge and skills in their areas of specialty.

There is one major concern with the text. It does not achieve the integration of Western health care knowledge with the cross-cultural health care situation facing this country that it sets out to do. As a text aimed at South Africa it could and should have included more detailed analyses of the differing perceptions of health and health care in our various cultural groups, with an attempt to reconcile differences. Drawing attention to the scarcity of information on these topics in most sections is not sufficient, particularly when an extensive knowledge base on some of our culturally diverse groups does actually exist. Future editions should seek to address this defect.

Beverley Chalmers

Voorgeboortediagnose

Human Prenatal Diagnosis. Gered. deur K. Filkins en J. F. Russo. Pp. xvii + 601. Geïllustreer. \$150 (VSA en Kanada)/\$180 (alle ander lande). New York: Marcel Dekker. 1990.

Navorsing in voorgeboortediagnose by die mens het in hierdie dekade opwindende resultate opgelewer. Heelwat van hierdie bevindings word nou klinies gebruik. Kort op die hakke van diagnose volg terapie. Behandeling van die intra-uteriene pasiënt word dus ook meer en meer toegepas. Hierdie boek verskyn tydig, want dit verdiedelikhierdie nuutste ontwikkelings en plaas dit in perspektief.

Die eerste hoofstuk bespreek die huidige omvang van voor-geboortesorghat by die raadpleging voor die beplanning van die swangerskap begin. Alhoewel al hierdie aanbevelings nie net so op 'n Derdewêreld-situasie toegepas kan word nie, is dit nodig om kennis te neem van die rigting waarin voorgeboortesorghat ontwikkel.

Die volgende hoofstukke handel oor verskeie diagnostiese tegnieke soos chorionvillusbiopsie, metaboliese diagnose, rekombinante DNA-prosedure, diagnose in veelvoudige swangerskap, amniosentese, fetale bloedtrek en Doppler-vloeistudies. Daar is drie hoofstukke oor ultrasonografie, een oor elke trimester. Een hoofstuk handel oor fetale terapie. Die laaste twee hoofstukke bespreek wetlike aspekte van fetale diagnose en pre-inplantasie diagnose en sifting.

Omdat die veld so wyd is, kan nie te veel detail verwag word nie. Die uitstekende literatuurverwysing maak egter hiervoor op want verdere naslaan kan maklik self gedoen word. Tog sou mens graag meer inligting oor fetale transfusie in die hoofstuk oor fetale terapie wou hê. Fetale transfusie met plaatjies word selfs nie eers genoem nie. Min word ook gesê oor Doppler-vloeistudies. Veel meer navorsing is al op dié gebied gedoen as wat in die spesifieke hoofstuk weerspieël word. Dit beklemtoon weer die probleem met boeke oor 'warm' onderwerpe — die inligting is onvoldoende teen die tyd wat die boek gepubliseer word.

Ten spyte van enkele tekortkomings gee hierdie boek waardevolle inligting en word dit dus aanbeveel vir alle geneeskunde biblioteke en vir die persoon wat die veld van voorgeboortediagnose wil verken.

H. Odendaal

Respiratory care

Introduction to Respiratory Care. Ed. by Levitzky, Cairo, Hall. Pp. x + 589. Illustrated. £32,00. Kent: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich. 1990.

Respiratory care is the term generally applied in medicine to describe the management of lung diseases. One would therefore be forgiven for believing that this book entitled *Introduction to Respiratory Care* would concentrate on therapeutics. In the USA, this term refers to the work of the respiratory therapist, and it is primarily for them that this book has been written. The duties of a respiratory therapist include components of the work performed in South Africa by clinical technologists trained in pulmonology, and physiotherapists.

While in several respects this is an impressive book — well written and illustrated with clearly defined goals described at the start of each chapter — sadly, it will be of little value to South African professional groups. Its chief deficiency is that the authors have attempted to provide in one volume of less than 600 pages, coverage of much of the content of both the clinical technology and physiotherapy courses, both of which are 4-year courses.

The book contains a section on preclinical science (including physics, chemistry, cardiac and pulmonary physiology and pathophysiology), a guide to the process of clinical assessment from history-taking to detailed special investigations, and finally, a therapeutics manual covering pharmacology, oxygen and other forms of inhalation treatments, bronchopulmonary hygiene and assisted ventilation. Although well written, each of these aspects is dealt with too briefly to be of value or serve as recommended reading for the above categories of staff. Similarly, although for medical practitioners it will be interesting in parts, the sections most relevant to clinicians are too brief. There is therefore no appropriate target group for this book in South Africa.

E. D. Bateman

Magnetic resonance imaging

Clinical Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Ed. by R. R. Edelman, J. R. Hesselink, J. Newhouse and D. J. Sartoris. Pp. xx + 1192. Illustrated. £125. Kent: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 1990.

There are two major divisions in this up-to-date book. In the first, approximately a third of the book is devoted to physics and instrumentation. Included are detailed explanations of the basic principles, artefacts, flow, newer fast-imaging sequences, contrast agents, clinical spectroscopy, physics of haemorrhage, and practical features such as site planning and sequence design.

The remaining division deals with clinical imaging of the central nervous system, orbit, head and neck, brachial plexus, spine, chest and abdomen, heart, pelvis, scrotum and testes, and musculoskeletal systems. Scanning protocols, anatomy, pathology and correlation with other imaging are discussed. The finer detail in the clinical sections is restricted by the sheer scope of topics covered, and may need to be sought elsewhere. There are a number of appendices with a glossary and comprehensive index at the end. The book is recommended as an all-round reference for the magnetic resonance radiologist.

S. J. Beningfield

Toxicology

Basic Toxicology. 2nd ed. By F. C. Lu. Pp. xiv + 361. Illustrated. R179,50. USA: Hemisphere. 1991.

This monograph on the general principles, testing procedures and evaluation of risk in toxicology is succinct and accurate. The main target organs and structures — the respiratory system, liver, kidney, skin, eye, nervous system, reproductive system and cardiovascular system — are considered from the points of view of the expression of toxins on the organs concerned and the testing procedures for the evaluation of these. The concepts underlying carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, teratogenesis and immunotoxicology are explained.

The author is an eminent toxicologist, and it is understandable that his perspective is more scientific than clinical. He has not entirely escaped the toxicologist's (and pharmacologist's) trap of providing long lists of causes and catalogues of adverse effects.

That having been said, this book will be useful for honours students in pharmacology and for the undergraduate who has a special interest in the field of drug and chemical injury to humans and experimental animals. The book will be of modest help to more advanced students, but it is not intended for them. I shall certainly be referring to it from time to time in the planning of my teaching programmes. Its price, in South African rands, is excessive.

Peter I. Folb

Obstetric anaesthesia

Controversies in Obstetric Anaesthesia. No. 1. Ed. by B. Morgan. Pp. vi + 138. Illustrated. Kent: Edward Arnold. 1990.

Dr Morgan has produced a very readable book using UK special-ists to argue for and against ten issues in obstetric anaesthesia. The authors are selected from many hospitals and the issues selected are pertinent.

The book is well referenced and would make interesting bedside reading for any obstetrician or obstetrical anaesthetist. Those doing postgraduate examinations would do well to 'listen' to the debates.

The book should be as successful as was the *Controversies in Anaesthesia* from the USA.

D. G. Moyes

Mycotoxins and health

Environmental Health Criteria 105: Selected Mycotoxins: Ochratoxins, Trichothecenes, Ergot. Pp. 263. Illustrated. SFr. 29. Geneva: WHO. 1990.

This volume is an update of No. 11 in the series, published in 1979. At first sight of the title one might be inclined to turn the page over, but the growing knowledge of the importance of naturally occurring mycotoxins to human health is worth noting. Contamination of food with mycotoxins, especially in developing countries, is widespread and sometimes serious.

Historically, ergot alkaloids from the genus *Claviceps* are perhaps the best-known mycotoxins. Two clinical pictures, one resulting from vaso-occlusion and the other with mainly gastrointestinal symptoms occur in poisoning. Low-level routine daily intake with food is known to happen in developed countries such as Switzerland, but exposure to higher levels from contaminated daily food intake in less developed areas may result in disease. Heat processing would destroy most alkaloids of the ergotamine group but is not always adequately done in such areas.

Trichothecenes, mostly produced by the fungus species *Fusarium*, may occur in corn, barley, wheat and oats. They have been found in flour, bread, and noodles, etc. Most are destroyed by adequate heat processing. In addition to a wide range of toxic effects on animals and man, trichothecenes are suspected to be mutagenic, teratogenic and carcinogenic, although this has not been confirmed for man. A chemical derivative, anguidine, has been used in trials as a chemotherapeutic agent in humans.

The ochratoxins, produced by fungal species in the *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium* groups, are very widespread. Ochratoxin A is associated with nephropathy in animals and humans in the Balkan peninsula, and has been suspected to be carcinogenic for some time. It may occur in maize, cereals and soya, coffee and cocoa beans, and has so far been found only in Europe. Carcinogenic action on the renal tubular epithelium of mice and rats has been established but has not been confirmed for man.

This booklet is not only of interest to veterinarians but also to public health administrators and other people working with or for people involved in the production of foodstuffs that may harbour mycotoxins.

J. T. Mets

Anxiety

Anxiety: Psychobiological and Clinical Perspectives. Ed. by N. Sartorius, V. Andreoli, G. Cassano, *et al.* Pp. xv + 292. Illustrated. R255,30. USA: Hemisphere. 1990.

In the rapidly developing field of modern psychiatry the anxiety disorders have become a major focus point. Important advances have been made regarding the nosological validity of various anxiety disorders, pathogenesis and in particular rational treatment strategies. In fact, the entire approach to this common group of disorders has undergone extensive revision. For example, as far as the treatment of anxiety is concerned the shift is toward non-benzodiazepine pharmacological agents and specific cognitive and behavioural psychotherapeutic techniques.

This book provides an excellent perspective on these new developments. Based on the papers presented during a World Health Organization symposium held in Rome in 1988, the volume is divided into three parts. The first deals with fundamental social, evolutionary and biological mechanisms involved in the occurrence of anxiety. The second addresses the assessment and classification of anxiety by means of clinical, psychometric and laboratory methods. In the third part, the treatment of anxiety states is discussed — with regard firstly to specific strategies currently in favour, and secondly to specific patient groups.

As would be expected from a volume compiled from papers presented by various authors, the quality of the chapters tends to vary. The book can, however, be recommended with confidence, particularly for psychiatrists and psychiatric registrars.

R. Emsley

Epilepsy

Current Problems in Epilepsy 7: Focal Epilepsy: Clinical Use of Emission Tomography. Ed. by M. Baldy-Moulinier, N. A. Lassen, J. Engel jun., and S. Askenazy. Pp. viii + 216. Illustrated. £28. London: John Libbey & Co. 1990.

Optimal surgical management of epilepsy depends on the correct localisation of the site and side of origin of the epileptic discharges. Modalities such as scalp EEG, brain imaging, and neuropsychological assessments are often adequate, but in some patients invasive techniques such as the insertion of depth electrodes are needed.

This book contains the proceedings of an international symposium held in Paris in May 1989 to discuss a major advance which, for many patients, may obviate the need for such invasive methods. This is the use of single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT). This radioisotope technique is similar to PET scanning but is far cheaper, partly because the hardware needed (a conventional rotating gamma camera) is available in most nuclear medicine departments.

Studies performed between seizures show areas of focal hypometabolism in a moderately high proportion of patients, but it is studies performed immediately after a seizure that are most helpful. When the isotope is injected within minutes of the seizure, areas of focal hypermetabolism can be detected in most patients, and these correlate strongly with the results obtained with other modalities.

This is a highly specialised book, but is necessary reading for any centre wishing to set up an epilepsy surgery programme. It may also be of interest to specialists in nuclear medicine.

M. H. Silber

Otolaryngology and allergy

An Otolaryngologist's Guide to Allergy. Ed. by H. C. King. Pp. xi + 256. Illustrated. DM 90. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1990.

It may come as something of a surprise to learn that an entire book has been devoted to allergy for otolaryngologists. The author's motivation soon becomes apparent upon reading the introduction to the book. American otolaryngologists have constantly had to adapt their practices to changing circumstance over the past 45 years. The introduction of antibiotics changed much of the nature of this surgical speciality. Then came a great deal of interest in stapedectomy and reconstructive ear surgery. Unfortunately, the number of these cases fell off drastically and facial plastic surgery became the next interest. Rising costs of malpractice insurance and other issues put a damper on this avenue and allergy became the latest focus of interest of these surgeons.

In spite of these reservations, this is nevertheless a very interesting, comprehensive and valuable book. Allergic disorders of the nasopharyngeal region form a large part of the conditions for which patients consult ENT surgeons in this country. These specialists need to know as much about these illnesses as possible. This book contains up-to-date information on basic allergy and immunology. It is especially useful on the diagnostic aspects, with excellent chapters devoted to clinical examination, history-taking and skin testing of allergic patients. *In vitro* allergy tests such as RAST and other techniques are comprehensively covered. A large section of the book is devoted to immunotherapy, much of which makes these procedures appear very complicated. This is probably a good thing since the dangers as well as the advantages of immunotherapy are adequately stressed. The chapter on incorporating allergy into the practice of otolaryngology is particularly well done and could be a model for other specialties such as paediatrics or internal medicine.

The scope of this book goes well beyond that of the title and will be of interest to many colleagues who treat allergic patients.

E. G. Weinberg

Cardiology

Mainstream Medicine: Cardiology. Ed. by R. G. Charles and A. J. Marshall. Pp. ix + 449. Illustrated. Durban: Butterworths. 1989.

This book is a part of a series under the generic title *Mainstream Medicine*. It is aimed at the postgraduate student preparing for the M.R.C.P. examination, and it covers in summary fashion all areas of cardiovascular practice. The layout of the text is mostly tabular, but despite this it is easy to read and to access different sections. Tables and illustrations are well placed within the text, and it is hardly ever necessary to refer to a table remote from the text. This adds to the easy use of the textbook. The content of the book is thorough, and both cardiology and hypertension are well covered. The data, particularly in the therapeutics section, is current and includes newer drugs such as xamoterol.

Although the F.C.P. examination has different aims, objectives and structure to the M.R.C.P., this book would be useful to local candidates. This applies particularly to chapters such as special investigations in cardiology, structure and function of the heart and circulation, and also arrhythmias where reference to standard textbooks in cardiology would provide excessive detail. The registrar or medical officer in a department of medicine would similarly find this book useful at the onset of their training, as indeed will the more ambitious undergraduate medical student.

The only criticism I could make is in the arrangement of chapters. The electrocardiogram is discussed after a detailed discourse on arrhythmias, which presumes knowledge of the second chapter. The chapter on cardiac physiology follows on three chapters devoted to issues related to physiology. All in all, however, a thoroughly recommended book.

G. D. Gordon

Pineal research

Advances in Pineal Research. Vol. 4. Ed. by R. J. Reiter and A. Lukaszuk. Pp. ix + 278. Illustrated. London: John Libbey & Co. 1990.

This volume, the fourth in the series since 1985, is based upon individual contributions to an international workshop addressing 'Sites of action and effects of pineal hormones' held in Poland in September 1989. A book by basic scientists for pineal scientists, with little clinical contribution, will limit readership.

The layout is mainly related to the hypothesis that the pineal gland is a neuro-endocrine organ that deposits its hormone, melatonin, into the bloodstream, whereupon it is concentrated in specific central nervous system areas. Melatonin exerts its effects upon the receptors located in the median basal hypothalamus (pars tuberalis), anterior pituitary and midbrain (mesencephalon) areas. The β - (and possibly α -) adrenoreceptor post-synaptic signal is cAMP- (and cGMP-) mediated, which then releases serotonin and melatonin (N-acetyl-5-methoxytryptamine). This hormone is released in peaks coinciding with darkness in a variety of animals (rodents, fish, avian species, mammals and man) and is thought to be a biological 'clock'.

Physiologically, three clinical aspects emerge that are of interest to clinicians. Firstly, many hormones (LHRH, TRH, prolactin and testosterone) and brain neurotransmitters are affected by melatonin. Secondly, the immune system interacts with T and B lymphocytes, which are influenced by the pineal gland in such a way that melatonin supports the body's immunity by influencing interferon. Melatonin may influence tumour surveillance, and others suggested that melanoma, adenocarcinoma (breast) and other malignancies may be immunologically modulated. Thirdly, thermoregulation and body 'biorhythms' may be controlled by melatonin. In rodents, the model from which much of the work is derived, the melatonin and NAT hormones peak at midnight while tryptophan hydroxylase and serotonin peak 12 hours later at midday. This circadian rhythm is only altered with prolonged sleep deprivation.

Basic scientists will be interested in receptor characterisation, which is membrane-located, identified best by 125 I-melatonin, which

which supercedes the tritiated ligand, and by autoradiography may be anatomically mapped to the pars tuberalis and anterior hypothalamus specifically.

Pinealologists in the last two decades have successfully studied: i) the secretion of melatonin from the pineal; ii) what regulates its uptake; iii) at what anatomical receptor site; and finally, iv) what post-synaptic chemical or electrical consequence results from this hormone.

Pineal physiology and biochemistry are still in their infancy. The relevance in the rodent, let alone man, of much of this is yet to be understood!

In summary this book is an excellent purchase for the research library, but think twice if you want leisure reading matter or a full understanding of the pineal gland.

J. A. Temlett

Reporting in orthopaedic trauma

Medico-legal Reporting in Orthopaedic Trauma. Ed. by M. A. Foy and P. S. Fagg. R39,50. Cape Town: Churchill Livingstone. 1990.

This excellent book on fractures takes the form of extracts from the literature. It has been industriously and carefully assembled by two orthopaedic surgeons, who, apart from acting as editors, have written 300 of the 500 pages.

The weakness is the emphasis on acute injuries — taken to extreme by 'Metabolic consequences of polytrauma' (16 pages). None of this is relevant in most medico-legal reports, where the task is to identify existing disabilities.

Vertebral injuries are parsimoniously discussed, and the commonest injury subject to litigation in the First World — the 'whiplash' — is effectively bypassed in one page. Low back pain receives even less generous coverage. Soft-tissue injuries are not included in the index.

The text of 'Traumatic spinal cord injuries' (13 pages) is diluted by excursions into history, philosophy, and even a page on the justification for witness' fee if a court case is cancelled.

Chapters on 'Head injuries' (12 pages) and 'Psychological effects on trauma' (10 pages) are of interest, but should not tempt the expert to trespass beyond his area of expertise. 'Post-traumatic reflex sympathetic dystrophy' serves to remind the reader of its protean manifestation.

The references are extensive (700 on the upper limb alone!). Is this not a relic of an era past? Readers with such access to the literature will — in 1991 — also have access to on-line bibliographic retrieval. Thus the reader would be better served by a list of appropriate key words, and get a cheaper book to boot.

If you deal with trauma, and wish to have a handy, comprehensive aid to management, or if you are a resident needing a concise assembly of prevailing opinions, buy this book. If you wish to develop skills in medico-legal reporting, look elsewhere.

J. P. Driver-Jowitt

Radiology

Differential Diagnosis in Conventional Radiology. Ed. by F. A. Burgener and M. Kormano. Pp. viii + 866. Illustrated. DM 298. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag. 1991.

Unlike most radiological textbooks that are either disease- or organ-orientated, this book is based on radiographic findings. The entire spectrum encountered in conventional radiology is covered.

A vast amount of information is available by largely using the format of columns headed 'disease', 'radiographic findings' and 'comments' instead of more conventional descriptive text. The book is profusely illustrated with radiographs and line drawings. Registrars in training will find it useful for rapid revision, and experienced clinicians will find it helpful in solving their diagnostic problems. It will serve as an invaluable quick reference 'bench manual' wherever conventional radiographs are reported.

J. P. de V. van Niekerk

Mental handicap

Perspectives on Mental Handicap in South Africa. Ed. by S. Lea and D. Foster. Pp. xi + 304. Illustrated. R45. Durban: Butterworths. 1990.

I consider this to be an outstanding book, which must have taken a great deal of time and research to produce. The authors have outlined, and explained historically, some of the very great problems in handling the mentally handicapped of this country.

Those of us who have experience in this field have long known of these problems, but, as the authors state, have not put the facts into writing. Everything that should be done for these people is done inadequately, not in the excellent services that are available, but in the serious limitation of services. Particularly stressed in the book are the gross inequalities in services available to blacks, coloureds and Indians compared with those available to whites. These include any possible aspect of services:

- Assessment, speech, occupational, physiotherapy, medical and psychological
- Early intervention therapy, preschool-age and school-age education through training centres and special centres
- Protective workrooms
- Special classes in normal schools
- Disability and single-care grants

Going back a century or so is interesting, and although we know that treatment of the mentally handicapped the world over was appalling, help was at least not limited to one racial group in other countries.

The book should certainly be read by all professionals who are interested or involved in the care of the mentally handicapped, be they psychologists, social workers, therapists, teachers or doctors. I would like to think that all psychiatrists and paediatricians would find great value in reading it, but I do not think it will appeal to doctors as much as to other professionals mentioned.

My one criticism of the book is that it would have been better to have included authors from other parts of the country, and not made it largely a survey of Cape Town facilities and opinions.

Joan Wagner

Water and salt homeostasis

Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism: Water and Salt Homeostasis in Health and Disease. Ed. by P. H. Bayliss. Pp. ix + 578. Illustrated. R22,50. England: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 1989.

Control of sodium and water balance is complex and involves a highly integrated series of mechanisms that regulate extracellular fluid volume and solute concentration. The discovery of new peptides affecting salt and water homeostasis, and the development of assays to measure their concentrations in plasma illustrate a few of the recent advances that have contributed to our understanding of this complex subject. Some of these advances are highlighted in this volume. It is edited by Peter H. Bayliss, who is recognised for his research on the effects of posterior pituitary hormones on fluid and electrolyte balance.

The first seven chapters discuss the physiological regulation of volume and solute concentration. Neuro-endocrine control of ADH release, and comprehensive reviews of the roles of the kidney and cardiovascular system in the maintenance of water and electrolyte homeostasis are well covered. Chapters on atrial natriuretic peptide and the factors that regulate its secretion, the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system, and the regulation of vasopressin secretion complete the first part of this book.

The importance of thirst in the maintenance of fluid balance, and mechanisms controlling thirst sensation introduce the reader to clinical situations in which thirst thresholds and sensitivities are altered. This is followed by chapters covering clinical disorders of water and salt homeostasis. Pathological disturbances of salt and volume homeostasis that may occur during pregnancy are discussed in some detail and make interesting reading. Polyuric states, in particular cranial and nephrogenic diabetes insipidus, are discussed in separate chapters, as are hypo-

natraemia and the salt and water disturbances that occur in hypertension and cardiac failure.

This volume contains essential information for the practising physician. Although the chapters covering the physiology of salt and water homeostasis are somewhat detailed, they provide the kind of basic knowledge that is fundamental to our understanding of the subject. The final chapters are easy to read, and provide comprehensive and important information for specialist physicians, particularly those with an interest in this field of medicine.

M. Abrahamson

Medical management

Difficult Medical Management. Ed. by R. B. Taylor. Pp. xxvii + 729. Illustrated. £47. Kent: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 1991.

This is a difficult book to categorise. It is a multidisciplinary work aimed at the practising clinician, the primary care provider and the specialist. There are 93 articles arranged alphabetically. The specialities range from neonatology to geriatrics, affecting both ambulatory and hospital patients. Acute conditions, including pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction and chronic disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and parkinsonism, are discussed in detail. HIV infection features in three separate articles. Oncology is represented by breast cancer, malignant melanoma and prostate cancer. The elderly patient is highlighted in depression, peptic ulcer and thyroid disease. The choice of subjects is based on the editor's experience as a family physician, first as a rural practitioner and currently as an academician in Portland, Oregon.

The editor has disciplined his authors well. Each chapter has the headings of background (the definition), management, issues and risks. Most are under nine pages long, yet contain a wealth of detail. The management is practical; drugs and dosages are given, the options, including appropriate non-pharmacological advice, are discussed, costs are sometimes evaluated and future prospects are indicated. Duplication has been avoided, and because the presentation is uniform there is little variation in literary style.

The references go up to 1989, which is an achievement in a large work with 162 credited authors. I found some numbering errors in the references, which probably reflect the rush to publish. I was surprised to see blood glucose and urea reported in mg/dl and not in SI units. The quality of the paper is good, the tables are clear and the text is easy to read.

The book cannot be all things to all people. It is a useful book for libraries and physicians. I am grateful for being given a review copy which I shall use frequently.

A. Dubb

Radiobiology

Introduction to Radiobiology. Ed. by M. Tubiana, J. Dutreix and A. Wambersie. Translated by D. R. Bewley. Pp. 371. Illustrated. R131. London: Taylor & Francis. 1990.

The translator of the original French text of this book is a well-known person in radiotherapy and radiobiology circles, and the authors are prominent members of the same clan. They can be regarded as foremost teachers and practitioners of radiobiology and radiotherapy, including particle therapy. The text is comprehensive and contains much new information in many areas previously not available in the English and American texts.

The effects of radiation on tumours, and the biological basis of radiotherapy are brilliantly explored, and the same can be said of chapter eight: Time and fractionation in radiotherapy. Particle therapy is well covered, and Professor Wambersie is an authority in this field. Only the very newest work on oncogenes in relation to radiosensitivity is not covered.

This book is an essential addition to the few text books already available on the subject, and every serious student of radiobiology or radiotherapy should buy it.

B. J. Smit