

## Medicine and Books

### Good scientists on good scientists

*Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society.* (Pp 604; £22.50 in the UK; £23.60 overseas.) The Royal Society. 1978.

Once a year, an extraordinary volume sees the light of day. It is composed by something over 20 of the cleverest people in Britain, each writing in great detail about 20 of their predecessors in cleverness—the fellows of the Royal Society who have died during the previous 12 months. That, at least, is the theory; in practice, the production of these memoirs often takes more than a year, so that Wilder Penfield (who died in 1976), Lancelot Hogben (who died in 1975), and Paul Karrer (who died in 1971), all find a place in the current volume.

#### Study of success

When good scientists write about other good scientists, they write with a degree of objectivity and precision that I have not found equalled elsewhere. While their portraits do not stint the smallest wart or blemish, they are equally scrupulous in describing in full the scientific work and the family and intellectual background of each subject. If one wants to know about human behaviour, it is most unwise (as so many people do nowadays) to concentrate only on human failure. The study of human success is both more interesting and more rewarding. It seems to me that, in these dissectional biographies of scientists, we have the raw material for the science of biography.

In many of the memoirs, the authors present their data in tabular form. A typical memoir ends with lists of honours, honorary memberships, honorary degrees, references, and a full bibliography. The memoir on Paul Karrer contains no fewer than 136 structural formulae. A diagram, showing his 1042 papers arranged by subject and chronologically, covering a period of 60 years, shows his progression of interests from arsenical compounds (when he worked under Ehrlich in 1910), through carbohydrates, amino-acids and proteins, carotinoids, fat-soluble vitamins and water-soluble vitamins, and coenzymes to alkaloids. En route, he worked out the formula of vitamin A, synthesised vitamins B<sub>2</sub> and E, prepared pure vitamin K<sub>1</sub>, and won the Nobel Prize.

The biographies as a whole may be treated in the same way as the individual studies. By subject, they break as follows: mathematics, 1; physics, 1; engineering, 4; chemistry, including physical chemistry, 2; biochemistry, 2; zoology, 4; botany, 1; physiology, 2; geology, 1; meteorology, 1; administration, 1. Ages at death were: 90 and over, two; 80-89, eight; 70-79, three; 60-69, six; 50-59, one. Fathers' occupations may be classified thus: skilled artisans and craftsmen, four; self-employed/professional, four; self-employed/business, eight; employed/professional, two; no data given, two.

From the memoirs, there starts to emerge an image or picture of the typical fellow of the Royal Society. He comes of a non-conformist family, occupied in small business or manufacturing. He goes to grammar school, whence he wins a scholarship to Cambridge. Despite a strict upbringing, he has a happy childhood, with no history of anti-parental revolt. Early in life, he shows an interest in natural history or amateur mechanical engineering. At school, he finds mathematics extremely easy. He soon becomes a prodigious, productive, and effective worker.

Though capable of broad generalisation and sweeping thought, he is scrupulous as to detail, and in all that he does. He loves his work, and, if in good health as he usually is, he continues active in it far beyond the normal age of retirement. He himself has a happy family life, married to a lady with interests not dissimilar to his own, and blessed with children who, in due course, rise high in the teaching and practice of science. There are surely some lessons here for the sick and second-rate society which we and our post-war politicians have managed to create.

If this is the norm, it may suggest that the FRSs are, for all their worth, rather a dull, smug, and self-satisfied lot. Nothing could be further from the truth. Certainly they have a fair opinion of their own achievements; but this is surprisingly objective, and seldom higher or lower than the facts warrant. But in most other respects these elucidators of the mysteries of nature and the universe are as varied and exciting a collection as one would come across in a month of Sundays. I had the good fortune to know five of them: Charles Dent, James Gray, A V Hill, Lancelot Hogben, and Wilder Penfield. I would rate these men as among the most interesting beings I have met. A V started as a mathematician, but found advanced maths "too remote from reality." He nearly switched to engineering before taking up physiology. He invented micro-methods of measuring heat production in muscles, and correlated his findings with those of biochemistry. His output of 226 papers—his last when he was 84—is fairly typical by Royal Society standards, but his discoveries rightly won him the Nobel Prize for physiology. Extraordinarily, A V was for five years a practising politician. He sat in the Commons as an independent Conservative for Cambridge University from 1945 to 1950. Here are his views of the politicians:

"Five years in Parliament cured me, if I needed curing, of any vulgar prejudice against politicians. For most of my colleagues there I conceived a sincere regard and affection, not only for their fundamental humanity but also for their devotion to the institutions of Parliament and their realisation that politics is the art and science of practical government."

He struck me as being essentially a simple man with straightforward uncomplicated patterns of thought. He was brilliantly intelligent and a tremendous worker, but not much good at deception. He refused a title (partly because he did not like either of his first two names), but he was proud to be made a CH and to receive no fewer than 17 honorary degrees.

#### From right to left

An absolute contrast to A V in most respects was Lancelot Hogben. Both were mathematicians turned biologists, both had superlative intellectual equipment, and both were tremendous workers. But there it ended. A V was steady as a rock, Lancelot erratic. A V was calm and restrained, Lancelot passionate. A V was mildly conservative, Lancelot a socialist and a scientific humanist. The extreme left has recently been trying to claim Lancelot. This is totally wrong. He treated their pretensions to revealed truth with contempt. He believed science had a duty to serve humanity and that it could only do so by maintaining ruthless intellectual honesty. Despite a gruff exterior, A V could get on with anyone. Lancelot had a quite staggering

capacity for picking quarrels. A V was abstemious and athletic; Lancelot was of miniscule physique and much given to strong drink. A V rejected titles; Lancelot longed passionately for one, and his acceptance of the regius professorship of natural history at Aberdeen was partly because he believed a knighthood went with the job.

By contrast again, H E Hinton, the great Bristol entomologist, was a bigoted Marxist. He started collecting insects at the age of 9. His ambition then was to be a fur trapper in Alaska. But at 14 he discovered it was possible to make a living working with insects. He never looked back. By the time he got his BSc, at the age of 22, he had published 17 papers. Thereafter the flow never ceased. He was a fine explorer, a good diver and a redoubtable boxer. He was also full of fun, wit, and wisdom. But some quirk in his character made him into a controversialist. He could not resist taking up a point of view on inadequate evidence—almost for the fun of the thing. A speaker, answering questions after a lecture said: "I'm not sure about this. Would Professor Hinton care to be dogmatic?" Hinton: "Certainly. What is it you want me to be dogmatic about?" This quirk spread over into his science. "In some of his papers he seemed to go out of his way to offend workers whose views he did not accept."

He joined the communist party in his 30s and never left it. He regarded Marx's social and political theories as scientifically established truths. He was unmoved by Krushchev's disclosures about Stalin, or by the invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia. "His political comments to colleagues seemed so wildly prejudiced and detached from reality that none of us could take them seriously. Yet he was conservative in academic affairs, took no interest in intellectual radicalism, dressed and behaved rather conventionally, invested his money shrewdly and got the best education he could buy for his children." He was very kind and made and kept friends throughout his life.

### First-rate collection

A man without blemish was Professor R A Morton, the Liverpool biochemist. He was the son of a much respected engine-driver from Wrexham. He built one of the great departments of biochemistry. His work on absorption spectra was superlative. His bibliography runs to 320 items. He was loved by all who knew him. Here are three Morton quotations: "In research, as elsewhere, one thing leads to another"; "Biochemistry is like a football match. There is a great crowd, and one has to interview many of the people before one can distinguish players from spectators"; and, a few days after his first coronary and not long before his death, "I'm not a very good advertisement for polyunsaturated margarine."

Another splendid man was Littlewood, the Cambridge mathematician. "This paper is heavygoing," he said, "and I should never have read it had I not written it myself."

Finally, a timely quotation from Professor Paul Karrer: "Most fundamental results and discoveries are not made with any practical objective in mind but during disinterested efforts in the search for truth. What the people and the state need most today is a reawakening of respect for nature, for creation, for the individual, and for justice. This applies to all branches of learning; the road to this reawakening is by disinterested research which seeks only for truth. It is not important if we only approach the truth and never actually reach it."

Anyone who finds such excellence dull must be a pretty dull dog himself. The objectors to meritocracy are a second-rate collection, whose chances of success in the open market are small indeed. To trust our fortunes to such people is to invite disaster, to which we have come painfully near in the last few years. How fortunate that the great self-perpetuating "invisible college" cherishes and keeps alive excellence, year in and year out. Its retrospective success is splendidly recorded in these memoirs.

LORD TAYLOR

## Towards ad hoc decision trees

*Pathways in Surgical Management.* Michael Hobsley. (Pp 343; £13.95.) Edward Arnold. 1979.

Professor Hobsley's thesis is that we carry in the mind a store of pathways to deal with clinical problems that are predominantly binary—that is, YES/NO. By applying successive questions based on such sharp dichotomies, it is possible to break down most events in such a way that a unique solution appropriate for the individual patient is found. The complex of yeses and noes can be arranged in a decision tree, flow diagram, or algorithm of varying orders of complexity.

With this idea as background, and with the additional and admirable view that we complicate our lives too much by considering all the possibilities (differential diagnosis) as distinct from a few of the probabilities (working diagnosis), Hobsley then sets out the background of analysis of such problems as a neck swelling or abdominal pain, building up the elements of a flow chart which, in its full form, ends each chapter. As might be expected from the author, the task is scrupulously done and the logic is impeccable. Though others might produce different pathways, these are acceptable and comprehensive.

There are, as the author implies in his introductory chapter, some signs that we are beginning to move towards a different attitude to teaching clinical medicine (which, pace some physicianly views to the contrary, includes surgery). More attention is gradually being paid to what in a moment of uncontrolled neologistic creation I have dubbed "clinical systematics"—that is, the conceptual and intellectual framework that is behind our attempts to solve clinical problems. Intuitive appreciation of such matters as binary sequential decision-making and of probability assessment is gradually being replaced by explicit recognition of such processes and their translation into formal clinical geometries (as in this book). It is not, I think, too much to expect the next stage to be some more formal calculus (not so much in mathematical as in logical terms) that will enable all of us to create ad hoc decision trees. I would judge that we have not yet reached that stage, but that books such as Professor Hobsley's are an important waystation on the road. My only fear is that it will be looked on as tedious and as a difficult way of learning surgery. This would be a great pity because I believe its purpose is to act as an introduction to one aspect of clinical systematics and to guide the relatively uninitiated through clinical encounters in a logical and economical way. In this, it is potentially highly successful and deserves serious consideration by a wide readership.

H A F DUDLEY

## A winning formula

*Progress in Cardiology: 7.* Ed Paul N Yu and John F Goodwin. (Pp 228; price not given.) Lea and Febiger. 1978.

Prospective editors of a series of reviews on cardiology (and, indeed, on other topics) would be well advised to have a careful look at the volumes in the present series, for here they will find a winning formula. Each year since 1972, another set of essays has appeared. Sometimes there is a central theme that dominates the subject, but on other occasions, as with the present volume, there is a selection of diverse topics. It is a great credit to the editors that some two to three years before each volume is published—when they must start planning and inviting contributors—they are able to predict what will prove useful and topical ahead of time. Once again, with number 7, they succeed.

Let us start with the penultimate chapter by McGoon, in which he describes new operations for congenital cardiac anomalies: his authoritative and up-to-date section is greatly

enhanced by the first chapter, in which Robert Anderson reviews the present knowledge of cardiac embryology. Anderson, as always, writes in a clear and forthright style, and his text is greatly enhanced by lucid line drawings. Autonomic factors in reflex cardiovascular control are comprehensively discussed by Korner, though his consideration of their clinical relevance is restricted to fairly brief comments on hypertension, myocardial infarction, and heart failure. The practical problems of cardiac reactions to emotional disturbance and catecholamine production, by Peter Taggart and his colleagues, ends with a somewhat speculative discussion of possible mechanisms. The importance of what they say, however, is clear: it is all too easy to attribute emotionally-induced changes on the electrocardiogram to disease. Their conclusion that paroxysmal tachycardia often has an emotional background is doubtless true, but one looks forward to further, deeper, analyses that will show how often this is the case and precisely how it arises; the favourable effects of beta-blocking agents are by no means universal, and do not necessarily confirm this proposition.

The work of Heath and Kay on the effects of diet and drugs in causing pulmonary hypertension is well known, and an updating is timely. Fortunately, many of the substances they mention are no longer in use, but they serve us well by pointing to the need to inquire into the diet and to take a history of drug ingestion when seeking the cause of otherwise unexplained pulmonary hypertension. We rarely know the cause of congestive cardiomyopathy when we diagnose it, and it has long been felt that viral myocarditis may be the forerunner in some cases; even though the evidence remains uncertain, Kawai and his colleagues review the topic well and remind us not only of their own contributions but also that of Goodwin.

The chapter on hypertension and angina pectoris is the least satisfactory. Neither subject gets the attention it deserves in its own right, and the important problem posed by their frequent coexistence deserved to be expanded at the expense of the long introductory review. The final chapter, by Jamieson and Clyne, provides a brief review of peripheral vascular disease of the lower limbs from the surgical point of view—a subject of great importance to cardiologists, whose patients most commonly suffer from arterial disease, and who need to be considered as a whole.

Perhaps the most pronounced difference between this series and its many competitors is the fact that its main appeal is to cardiologists or to general physicians with a major interest in this specialty. The current volume amply confirms its value.

DENNIS KRIKLER

## Small can be beautiful

*The Dignity of Labour? A Study on Childbearing and Induction.* Ann Cartwright. (Pp 184; £7.95.) Tavistock Publications. 1979.

It is difficult to decide for whom *The Dignity of Labour* was written. Certainly not consultants, registrars, general practitioners, or medical students. It is too full of factual details and figures to be of interest to mothers or mothers-to-be. I do not think midwives or sisters in charge of obstetric units would want to read it. So I suppose the only group to whom it would be suited would be budding social workers. They could use it as a textbook on how to write and present a well thought-out study and pass on the good news to those most concerned.

Medical correspondents, however, will find it a godsend. In fact, writers of popular medical articles have already found it a mine of information and I have already heard some of the figures in the book quoted in programmes on TV and radio.

Because of its appearance now, one might be deluded into imagining that this could be a party political book as the title, "The Dignity of Labour," suggests—except for the rather dismal drawing on the front, and I cannot find any acknowl-

edgment to the artist concerned, which is rather surprising because Ann Cartwright acknowledges by name 49 people who helped in preparing this study.

In her last paragraph Ann Cartwright states, "Women, partly because of the women's movements, are increasingly conscious of the indignities of labour. Dignity can only be achieved through a true partnership between parents and professionals." I am deeply shocked if mothers have become increasingly aware of the indignities of labour, and suggest that the enjoyment, wonder, and mystery of it be restored as soon as possible.

Matters seem to have been taken out of the hands of mothers-to-be or obstetricians: small obstetrical units, cottage hospitals, and home deliveries are going to be a thing of the past. Bureaucrats, medical or otherwise, appear to have decided on bigger and bigger units, which are more and more impersonal and further and further from the mother's home. How the families ever manage a visit is sometimes beyond comprehension. Surely the local or the village shop still has a place in our lives. Supermarkets may have more variety and may even be cheaper. But whose advice do you seek in supermarkets about which is more suitable to remove paint or bitumen from your hands—Takleen or Swarfega? or the advantages of a paint remover or Swarfega to remove a stain from a cord carpet? These and many other useful things one can find out in a small local shop and, on top of this, one is called by one's own name.

It is up to the mother-to-be to decide what kind of service she wishes to receive and my concern is that she will still have a choice in the future. Ann Cartwright has written a thoughtful book, but at £7.95 I feel that her hard work could have been put to better use.

C B WILSON

## A haphazard miscellany

*Immunochemistry in Clinical Laboratory Medicine.* University of Lancaster, March 1978. Ed A Milford Ward and J T Whicher. (Pp 247; £12.95.) MTP Press. 1979.

I have often wondered about the fate of published proceedings of symposia. If covered by the conference fee, participants receive a copy. Do they then read it faithfully, or does the volume decorate their shelves like any other memento of a journey undertaken? How many non-participants buy them? How valuable are they? The quality and interest to a particular individual vary considerably. They are ephemeral because a symposium is really a mixture of reviews and recent advances. There will be no second edition, although there might be a second symposium. Publishers, like bookies, seem to make a living, so there is something in it for them. Who is the bigger gambler—the buyer or the seller?

This symposium was held at Lancaster University in March 1978, so that another year has passed since then. The published proceedings exhibit many of the problems hinted at above—for example, the variable quality—but judgment would be coloured by whether one was interested in the scientific foundations or practical tips about the methods used. The objective, we are told, was to highlight some of the advantages and disadvantages of immunochemical methods for estimating certain plasma proteins and to put these into a proper perspective to modern clinical practice. To achieve this, the book is divided into three sections: one headed methods and problems in immunochemistry; a second on specific proteins in laboratory diagnosis; and a short third one on immunochemistry of other body fluids (which means urine and cerebrospinal fluid).

This apparently logical approach was not ideal. An admirable paper in section I by J T Whicher, on problems in immunochemical technique methodology, would have been easier for the amateur to follow if, before that, he had read the first

paper in section II (R S H Pumphrey on structure and function of the immunoglobulins). In fact, the latter would have been a better starting point for both book and symposium. Similarly, the more general matters such as antiserum requirements (a most useful contribution by A C Munro), specific protein measurement and standardisation (which was really a sermon on standardisation), and quality control, might have preceded the first three papers on the specific problems of electrophoresis, immuno-electrophoresis, radial immunodiffusion, rocket immuno-electrophoresis, automated immuno-precipitation, and laser nephelometry.

My question about potential purchasers is not resolved by section II. A haematologist talks about iron-binding proteins, a transfusionist about immunoglobulins in blood transfusion, and two are separated by J Kohn on monoclonal proteins. There is no sense of history, for only then can we read about albumin, and, thereafter, the fearsome complexities of the complement system before going on to more clinical chapters on  $\alpha$ -fetoprotein in obstetrics and oncology,  $\alpha_1$ -antitrypsin, and haptoglobin and orosomucoid in lung and breast tumours.

Thus it is an immunological miscellany, with a little for everyone and perhaps a lot for a few. Would I buy it? Well, it would be useful in the departmental library, not least because each chapter had a valuable bibliography. Otherwise... well it is a miscellany, so take your choice.

P D GRIFFITHS

## Failure of a laudable aim

*Analytic Medicine*. Vol 1. "Conventions." Graham Rabey. (Pp 75. £6.95.) MTP Press. 1979.

*Analytic Medicine* is the first in a series that later on will take in normal structure, normal function, and abnormal structure and function. All are at present in preparation. This slim volume is in the nature of a prospectus for the others. It is interesting in that it tries to develop a system for understanding medicine in a wider framework of general knowledge including philosophy, logic, mathematics, physics, chemistry, and astronomy. This entirely laudable aim fails completely. The medical students to whom the book is directed will never understand it. That is a pity, since the idea is excellent and the author almost certainly has the ability to develop it. His reading and understanding are catholic and he has, for himself, sought and partially found a grand design in branches of knowledge and their relations with each other which help him, and which he wishes to communicate to others. Given the basic intention, I am saddened by his failure to do this. Instead of a clear exposition of his thought for others to understand, the author has produced an elegant notebook for himself.

Conventions are generally agreed backgrounds to thinking and doing. Dr Rabey does not explain why he has chosen his particular ones. His graphic convention for knowledge relies heavily on formal and informal axes that, so far as the reader is concerned, float in a vacuum. Words like concept, percept, objectivity, adjectivity, corresept, and qualicept creep in and then are lost. Personality is characterised according to Jung, Jordan, Kretschmer, Gross, and Sheldon as extravert, activist, cyclothyme, broad-shallow, and viscerotomic (sic), without explanation. How is the student to make head or tail of that?

The author is an anatomist and there is a section on the "distal morphology problem." It has nothing to do with limbs, but relates to life sciences that are distal, in his terminology, to mind and matter on the informal axis. There are brief excursions into the periodic table, mapmaking, and celestial morphology, and then the answer to the problem emerges in a fixed-relations theory. This leads to an approach to human morphology, specially developed by the author, and which is called morph-analysis. Arising from this will come the further three volumes.

The plan seems not to differ greatly from that of others who have attempted to unify the concepts of medicine.

An appendix tabulates some landmarks in the history of thought and knowledge. For doctors lacking a great deal of scholarship it has little value, and certainly not for junior medical students. A great opportunity has been missed to write a really important book based on the notes of this one. When the better one is written, attention will need to be given to the spelling of consensus, indispensable, complementary, and Pythagoras.

PHILIP RHODES

## In brief

Have the professionals and the State taken over babies as well as steel and British Leyland? Penelope Leach in *Who Cares?* (Penguin, 75p) evidently thinks there is a real danger of this happening, and her warning that soon all parents—whether they need it or not—will have expert guidance, surveillance, and control is ominous. She is emphatic, and few would disagree, that babies and young children need a special person (preferably a mother) to whom they can relate, and she says that group care is unsatisfactory for toddlers. Mothers should be encouraged to stay at home and look after their under-5s, and be given an allowance for doing so; this, she says, might even save public money.

Dr Leach attacks the planners for not considering mothers and young children at road crossings, and in shops, public transport, and streets, and she sensibly suggests that fathers should be given two weeks' paid paternity leave. For isolated mothers she suggests "neighbourhood clubs." Too much of the available money is spent on providing school places and other ways of allowing mothers to go to work; the TUC and CBI both think in terms of families for industry, not industry for families. Too often nowadays, she says, parents turn to the "experts" for advice and they are gradually losing confidence in their own ability to care for their children. She wants parents to be taught about child development (by other parents) to give them an interest in watching their own children grow.

This is all sound common sense, and Dr Leach's book is eminently readable.

### Contributors

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## Some new titles

### Anaesthetics

*Lecture Notes on Anaesthetics.* John N Lunn. (Pp 170; £4.) Blackwell Scientific Publications. 1979.

*Recent Advances in Anaesthesia and Analgesia.* No 13. Ed C Langton Hewer and R S Atkinson. (Pp 236; £15 cased, £10 flexiback.) Churchill Livingstone. 1979.

*Topics in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care for Undergraduates.* J Andrew Thornton and Cyril J Levy. (Pp 158; £4.60.) Kimpton. 1979.

### Biochemistry

*Biosynthetic Products for Cancer Chemotherapy.* Vol 3. George R Pettit and Richard H Ode. (Pp 197; \$20.47.) Plenum Press. 1979.

*Transfer RNA.* Ed Sidney Altman. (Pp 356; £21.) MIT Press. 1979.

### Endocrinology

*Monographs on Endocrinology.* Vol 11. "Major Sex-Determining Genes." Susumu Ohno. (Pp 140; \$21.50.) Springer. 1979.

*Physiologie Humaine le Systeme Endocrine.* F Berthezene, C Gharib, and J Orgiazzi. (Pp 238; price not given.) Simep. 1979.

*Practical Diagnosis: Endocrine Disease.* Stanley G Korenman, Daryl K Granner, and Barry M Sherman. (Pp 276; price not given.) Houghton Mifflin Company. 1978.

### Haematology

*Aplastic Anaemia.* Ed C G Geary. (Pp 249; 39 figures; £12.50.) Baillière Tindall. 1979.

*Clinical Monographs in Haematology.* Vol 1. "The Acute Leukaemias." Thomas F Necheles. (Pp 200; \$14.75.) Stratton Intercontinental Book Corporation. 1979.

### Hepatology

*Atlas of Liver Biopsies.* Hemming Poulsen and Per Christoffer- sen. (Pp 239; Dkr 350.10.) Munksgaard. 1979.

*The Hepatic Coma Syndromes and Lactulose.* Harold O Conn and Milton M Lieberthal. (Pp 419; \$46.) Williams and Wilkins Company. 1979.

### Immunology

*Basic and Clinical Immunology.* "Mechanisms of Immunopathology." Ed Stanley Cohen, Peter A Ward, and Robert T McCluskey. (Pp 358; £17.) John Wiley and Sons. 1979.

*Clinical Concepts in Medicine Monograph Series.* "Clinical Concepts of Immunology." Ed Robert H Waldman. (Pp 263; \$21.50.) Williams and Wilkins and Company. 1979.

*Medical Immunology.* Ed W James Irvine. (Pp 506; £16 hard back; £12.50 soft back.) Teviot Scientific Publications. 1979.

### Nephrology

*Practical Diagnosis: Renal Disease.* Michael A Kirschenbaum. (Pp 253; price not given.) Houghton Mifflin Company. 1978.

*Pyelonephritis.* F Rényi-Vámos and F Balogh. (Pp 191; \$16.50.) Akadémiai Kiadó. 1979.

### Neurology

*Neurology of Musculoskeletal and Rheumatic Disorders.* Kenneth K Nakano. (Pp 401; price not given.) Houghton Mifflin Company. 1979.

*Sensory Mechanisms of the Spinal Cord.* W D Willis and R E Coggeshall. (Pp 485; £20.) Plenum Press. Published in UK by John Wiley and Sons. 1978.

*Single Fibre Electromyography.* Erik Stålberg and Jože V Trontelj. (Pp 244; £10.) Mirvalle Press. 1979.

### Obstetrics and gynaecology

*Ergebnisse der experimentellen Medizin.* Vol 31, "Gynäkologische Histologie." Ed G Holle. (Pp 224; DDRM 25.) Volk and Gesundheit. 1978.

*Manual of Gynecologic and Obstetric Emergencies.* Ben-Zion Taber. (Pp 929; £17.25.) Saunders. 1979.

*Modern Trends in Infertility and Conception Control.* Vol. 1. Ed Edward E Wallach and Roger D Kempers. (Pp 439; \$23.75.) Williams and Wilkins Company. 1979.

*Placental Transfer.* Ed Geoffrey Chamberlain and Andrew Wilkinson. (Pp 212; £15.) Pitman Medical. 1979.

### Oncology

*The Cancer Reference Book: Direct and Clear Answers to Everyone's Questions.* Paul M Levitt and Elissa S Guralnick, with A Robert Kagan and Harvey Gilbert. (Pp 224; £4.95.) Paddington Press. 1979.

*I A R C Scientific Publications.* No 21. "Cancer Registration and its Techniques." Robert MacLennan, Calum Muir, Ruth Steinitz, and Ali Winkler. (Pp 235; Sw frs 40.) International Agency for Research on Cancer. Distributed by the World Health Organisation. 1978.

*International Histological Classification of Tumours.* No 19. "Histological Typing of Upper Respiratory Tract Tumours." K Shanmugaratnam in collaboration with L H Sobin and pathologists in 10 countries. (Pp 56; Sw. frs 285.) World Health Organisation. 1978.

### Miscellaneous

*Abrégé de Biophysique.* Vol 1. "Physico-chimie Électrophysiologie." A Bertrand, D Ducassou, J-C Healy, and J Robert. (Pp 208; 150 figures; no price given.) Masson. 1979.

*Abrégé de Fiscalité des Professions Médicales et Paramédicales.* Christian Gosserez. (Pp 192; no price given.) Masson. 1979.

*Advances in Microcirculation.* Vol 8. "The Microcirculation in Diabetes." Ed E Davis. (Pp 152; DM 138.) Karger. 1979.

*Asbestos.* Vol 1. "Properties, Applications, and Hazards." Ed L Michaels and S S Chissick. (Pp 553; £25.) John Wiley and Sons. 1979.

*Biofeedback—Principles and Practice for Clinicians.* Ed John V Basmajian. (Pp 282; \$31.95.) Williams and Wilkins Company. 1979.

*Common Clinical Perplexities.* Carl Blackburn Lyle, jun, and Raymond Francis Bianchi. (Pp 222; £7.) Henry Kimpton. 1979.

*Current Medical Diagnosis & Treatment.* Ed Marcus A Krupp and Milton J Chatton. (Pp 1130; \$18.) Lange Medical Publications. 1979.

### New editions

*A Beginning Manual for Psychotherapists.* 2nd edn. Ernest Kramer. (Pp 166; £6.95.) Grune and Stratton. UK distributor: Academic Press. 1979.

*Immunocytochemistry.* 2nd edn. Ludwig A Sternberger. (Pp 354; £19.50.) John Wiley and Sons. 1979.

*Law Relating to Medical Practice.* 2nd edn. C R A Martin. (Pp 614; £35.) Pitman Medical. 1979.

*Sexual Deviation.* 2nd edn. Ed Ismond Rosen. (Pp 556; £17.50.) Oxford University Press. 1979.