

It is the reading that is difficult. There is so little space for words: each one must tell and be helped by organisation, precision, and accuracy, which are inconstant here. Extra care is required because much must be left unsaid, an invitation to imagination and extension by implication. A distinct impression comes upon one that the book exists for the pictures, different pictures different book. Another step, and the question arises: is it a counter in the publication game? Difficult points to argue. But what is the place of the colour atlas? Certainly if it is to contribute there must be tighter editorship than in this example.

PD BYERS

Endocrinology. Vols 1, 2, and 3. Ed LJ De Groot, GF Cahill, WD Odell, L Martini, JI Potts, DH Nelson, E Steinberger, and AI Winegrad.

Vol 1 (Pp xxi + 547; illustrated; \$57); Vol 2 (Pp xxi + 758; illustrated; \$77.50); Vol 3 (Pp xxi + 838; illustrated; \$85.50). Grune & Stratton. 1979.

It is not often that a book of such quality is produced, and it is even less often that a reviewer can be so fulsome in his praise. It has been a pleasure to read through the three volumes, my only regret being that at the price the volumes are more likely to find their way into libraries rather than into individual collections. The volumes embody a successful attempt to integrate clinical endocrinology, physiology, genetics, biochemistry, and immunology and also discuss in some detail the various methods of estimation for a variety of hormonal substances. With nearly 200 experienced contributing authors, the eight editors are to be congratulated on the regularity of style in the various chapters.

These are not books for the hip pocket, with a total of 2,143 pages and a combined weight of 7 kg, but they do represent one of the most enlightened and comprehensive attempts to cover the field of endocrinology not only from a clinical aspect for the practising physician but also by the use of basic science data to aid interpretation. These books will become a standard reference work in the field of endocrinology.

GW PENNINGTON

Abdominal Ultrasound. Static and Dynamic Scanning. 2nd edn. Ed HH Holm, JK Kristensen, SN Rasmussen, JF Pedersen, S Hancke, F Jensen, J Gammelgaard and EH Smith. (Pp 274; illustrated; Dkr 300.) Munksgaard. 1980.

All diagnostic methods are complementary, and, although the initiating clinician also has the ultimate duty of making sense of the reports and data he receives, it is equally important that the diagnostic specialist should look sideways to see how his information can be compared and correlated with other sorts of data. Ultrasound is not one of the newest techniques but its impact is increasingly important and its use, for example in ultrasonically guided percutaneous diagnostic puncture, is of direct relevance to the cytopathologist. In some places the cytologist wields the needle, but however that may be, the pathologist, as the ultimate visualiser, should know how things look to others. *Abdominal Ultrasound* is a clearly written, well-illustrated guide, which deserves to be scanned more widely than in the confines of the diagnostic x-ray department.

HEM KAY

Clinical Pathology. Continuing Education Review. DH Buss, ML O'Connor, and BL Wasilauskas. (Pp 331; \$14.75.) Medical Examination Publishing Co Inc. 1980.

This is a collection of 530 essay questions with short answers on chemical pathology, haematology, microbiology, and parasitology. The questions are mostly topical (but who uses the Dick test nowadays?) and, though based on American practice, will be nonetheless stimulating to trainee pathologists anywhere in the world. After each article is a reference to a review article for further reading, some of which are not very recent. As the answers appear to be based on these reviews it is inevitable that there are some omissions. The book is well indexed, and it is easy to find one's way to a question. The layout is satisfactory, and there are few typographical errors, though the confusion in the abbreviations for hepatitis B virus antigens on pages 244 and 245 may cause problems. Candidates for the primary MRC Path will obtain profit and pleasure from dipping into this book, but its price may deter them.

RJC HART

Notices

International Symposium on Nephrotoxicity

An International Symposium on Nephrotoxicity (Assessment and Pathogenesis) will be held at the University of Surrey, Guildford, England, 7-11 September 1981. There will be the opportunity to present posters, abstracts of which will be published. The closing date for registration is 15 July 1981. For further information please contact the Secretary, Nephrotoxicity Symposium, Department of Biochemistry, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 5XH, Surrey, England.

Fondazione Giovanni Lorenzini

An advanced course on Monoclonal Antibodies and Ultrasensitive Immunoassays in Human Diagnosis and Monitoring Therapy and the 3rd International Symposium on Calcitropic Hormone Methods and Clinical Applications will be held in Gardone Riviera, Lake Garda, Italy, 6-9 May 1981. For information please contact the Organising Secretariat: Fondazione Giovanni Lorenzini, Via Manzoni Napoleone, 23-20121 Milan, Italy.

4th World Congress for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy

The Fourth World Congress for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy will be held in London, 13-17 October 1981. For further information write to: CPC Secretariat, Caroline Roney Medical Conference Organisers, 100 Park Road, London NW4 4RN, UK.