an important book for anyone working in child or adolescent psychiatry, terms that do not appear in the book. The authors show alternative ways of looking at many of the issues fundamental to this domain. It is not a book simply about family therapy, nor is it a book that treats family therapy as just another form of treatment. Instead the authors use their own ideas and those they have gleaned from other writers to guide their work in many ways: in decisions relating to admission to residential units, in the use of drug treatment and sanctions, in staff relationships and staff-client relationships, as well as in direct work with families. The authors also use these ideas to guide themselves to work in their cars.

MICHAEL ODDY

The same but different

Skin Disease in Old Age. R Marks. (Pp 288; colour plates; £30.) London: Dunitz, 1987. ISBN 0-948269-20-0.)

The elderly do not suffer from dermatoses peculiar to their age group, merely from different prevalence of the same that younger adults suffer. So we may ask what justification there is for the appearance of *Skin Diseases in Old Age*. There are many existing compendia, handbooks, and atlases covering this topic. It could be claimed that attention needs to be brought to the ills of the aged, especially to encourage investigative work, which is particularly meagre in dermatology. The book is essentially clinical in content, but is introduced by a brief section on research into aging processes in the skin; this pinpoints the problem central to solving what senescence is. How much is environmental, how much "intrinsic?"

The main justification for publishing the book must lie in the large quantity and high quality of its clinical colour illustrations. (In the profusion of illustrations, the uninitiated may be occasionally confused in matching a picture to its caption.) The accompanying text is written in an unimposing, easy, even chatty, style. Full marks to the author. There are also plenty of tables summarising such things as causes of diseases, differential diagnosis, etc. This makes for rapid and painless uptake of facts. Factual and printer's errors seem to be few and minor.

After the introductory section there are nine chapters describing the individual diseases under the usual headings—infestations, neoplasias, blistering diseases, and so on. The thoroughness of the individual descriptions varies, but in general is in proportion to a disease's prevalence; for instance, coverage of neoplasia is full, and

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probably this will be the most generally valuable chapter to non-dermatological readers. Another chapter that will be popular must be that on the skin manifestations of internal disease.

The content of the book is such that little previous dermatological knowledge is required or assumed. Who will find it most useful? Perhaps the MRCP candidate will find it serves well for a quick survey. The research worker would discover areas where new studies could be aimed. The geriatrician and general physician would find the book approachable, sensible, and practical. There is plenty of useful advice on patient management and a final chapter on general principles where some sound points are made. The book also gives handy access to other publications on the subject.

The technical production is faultless, the colour photography being outstanding—a credit to the photographic department at the author's medical school as well as the author himself, but also to the publisher and his Singapore printer. £30 seems very reasonable to pay out.

I A MAGNUS

Note: Anatomical Drawings of Biting Flies (Jobling)

We have been asked to point out that this book, which was reviewed in our issue of 11 July (p 112), can be ordered from the Sales Department, Natural History Museum Publications, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD. It is not obtainable from the Wellcome Trust or the Wellcome Tropical Institute.

What's new in the new editions?

CLIFFORD HAWKINS

It was in AD 105, I learn, that the Chinese produced paper as we know it today. Rags, which were ground down with water, disintegrated into small fibres and formed a pulp; this was poured on to an interwoven bamboo mat and the sheet of matted fibres dried in the sun. Rags are still used for handmade paper needed for special limited editions of books because of its strength, longevity, and texture. The usual machine made paper is produced either by grinding logs or from fibres recovered from used newsprint (which helps to conserve forests). In recent years chemically treated wood fibres have been used to create paper that, being free from lignin,

does not go yellow with age and has the advantages of being thinner yet opaque and strong—and possesses a greater degree of whiteness. The only disadvantage of this lightweight paper is that it costs more.

Dubois' Lupus Erythematosus. 3rd edn. D J Wallace, E L Dubois. (Pp 792; figs; \$98.) Philadelphia: Lea and Febiger, 1987. ISBN 0-8121-1005-6.

"The largest in the world" is a common American boast and this is undoubtedly a correct reference to the lupus centre at Los Angeles, founded and directed by the late Dr Dubois. The present editor has maintained the high standard of this classic, and the publishers have surprisingly produced a book that is half the size and weighs 1½ lb less than the edition of 1974; this is not due to reduction of its contents but because different lightweight paper has been used.

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CLIFFORD HAWKINS, MD, FRCP, honorary consultant physician

Systemic lupus erythematosus has replaced syphilis as the great mimic, and all its various clinical manifestations are well documented as hundreds of the centre's patients have been followed up for 20 years; new sections include the psychopathology of lupus, differential diagnosis, renal disease, pregnancy, and neonatal lupus. All the latest immunological aspects are covered, and there is a section on discoid lupus. The many new illustrations include an electronmicroscopic picture of a typical lupus erythematosus cell, and current diagnostic tests are clearly explained. The book is a superb work of reference and the two appendices are full of useful information—addresses and literature—for patients: the brochure of the British SLE Aid Group entitled *Lupus: a Guide for Patients* by Dr Graham Hughes is "highly recommended" (page 618).

AIDS Questions and Answers. 2nd edn. V G Daniels. (Pp 116; £5.95 paperback.) Cambridge: Cambridge Medical Books, 1987. ISBN 0-948920-00-9.

A new edition of a medical book that appears after one year must be a record, and I understand that about 4000 copies were sold. This is partly due to the topic but also because it is such an excellent book for the lay person; the first reviewer rightly wrote that "Written in a simple question and answer format, it encompasses most of the usual concerns about the disease." He made several suggestions for topics that should have been included—and the author has done this. New sections include "What are the risks of the different sexual activities?" "Safer sex—AIDS and the condom," "Whether health care workers are at risk," "What is the AIDS risk to heterosexuals?" and "Ten rules to protect you and your family against AIDS." The six appendices include all the information that the AIDS sufferer may need including addresses for the international traveller.

AIDS. The Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. 2nd edn. V G Daniels. (Pp 204; figs; £11.95.) Lancaster: MTP Press, 1987. ISBN 0-7462-0035-8.

Published in 1985, this book has achieved a similar bonanza to the last and is equally clearly written, so it is intended for a wide range of readers—for example, non-specialists, medical students, and health care workers. New parts include advice for general practitioners handling AIDS testing, risks from blood products, clinical aspects of infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and "Evolution of PGL and ARC to AIDS"—but the abbreviations in this subheading are explained earlier (persistent generalised lymphadenopathy and AIDS related complex); he writes that over a five year period in different surveys across the world some 10 to 30% of patients positive for HIV antibodies have developed AIDS but over 10 to 15 years the proportion may be over 50%—only time will tell. No references are given—the amount of papers published since the first case was described in 1981 must be immense—but the latest studies are quoted and the subject is covered fully. The eight appendices are full of useful practical information and include a selected bibliography. The line diagrams are useful and range from the enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for antibody against HIV to a schematic diagram of the virus, and comparisons can be made with diagrams of others such as the adenovirus, influenza, vaccinia, and tobacco mosaic viruses.

Neurosurgical Anaesthesia and Intensive Care. 2nd edn. T V Campkin, J M Turner. (Pp 336; figs; £40.) London: Butterworth, 1986. ISBN 0-407-00330-4.

Induced hypothermia, which, in the 1980 edition, was stated as enjoying "periods of both enthusiasm and scepticism" (the local or total circulatory arrest produced an almost bloodless field for operating on aneurisms or vascular tumours), has been abandoned, and current methods are described in part 3. Part I deals with the cerebral circulation, intracranial pressure, and the effects of

anaesthetic agents; part 2 covers basic considerations including induced hypotension, which minimises the bleeding; part 4, "Intensive care," has been rewritten, and its chapter 15, "Postoperative and intensive care," now includes respiratory failure, Reye's syndrome, computed tomography, cerebral function monitoring and brain death, evoked responses, control of status epilepticus, and specific treatment to improve cerebral function.

The last chapter, 16, "The care of the head-injured patient"—also rewritten—is, like the others, replete with references to published work. Patients with head injury are usually first sent to a hospital without neurosurgical facilities, and studies quoted (page 291) list the avoidable factors that contributed to the death in 116 patients who talked after head injury: delay in treating an intracranial haematoma and poorly controlled epilepsy were commonest; airway obstruction and hypotension were also noted.

Joint Disease: all the Arthropathies. 4th edn. E C Huskisson, F Dudley Hart. (Pp 208; £9.95 paperback.) Bristol: Wright, 1987. ISBN 0-7236-0571-8.

Many more conditions have been added to the list provided in 1978 so that there are now around 250. Interpretation of the title has been wide—it includes, for example, the repetition strain syndrome (as in writer's cramp) and the rib tip syndrome, where subluxation of a costal cartilage is given as a cause of unexplained abdominal pain—probably a typical example of non-disease, and my reading of the original description supported this idea. It is, however, invaluable to have this catalogue of rare rheumatic conditions at hand when dealing with an obscure problem, and it also provides material for scoring points at medical meetings—for instance, by asking a question such as "Surely it is a case of the Churg-Strauss syndrome?"

Yet some are so odd and unsubstantiated that I wonder whether the compiler has become too uncritically enthusiastic in his search. The septic focus syndrome has been resuscitated, but the reference for this is an anecdotal statement only. Tennis leg (page 158), due to sudden rupture of the medial belly of the gastrocnemius muscle, might be referred to a rheumatologist but is not confined to tennis players—for, as the authors state, Dr W G Grace was inflicted with it when playing cricket at Lord's in 1884. Heaven forbid that some of these conditions should ever get into a standard textbook, but this compilation is useful and entertaining reading: ponderous purse disease, we are told, is a painful shoulder and neck in women caused by an overfilled handbag, and genu amoris is a painful swollen knee caused or aggravated by sexual intercourse in an unusual position.

Fundamentals of Clinical Chemistry. 3rd edn. Ed N W Tietz. (Pp 1040; figs; £35). Philadelphia: Saunders, 1987. Distributed by Holt-Saunders. ISBN 0-7216-8862-4.

This edition looked more interesting than the 1976 book, perhaps because the publishers have used a two colour system: red for part of the graphs and formulas and also for subheadings, and black as usual for the rest. It is well illustrated and written by 70 contributors; the editor is director of clinical chemistry at the University of Kentucky. The inside two pages of the front and back covers are used to list procedures described in detail in the large *Textbook of Clinical Chemistry* published by the editor in 1986, as well as providing other information.

Lorna Morris, principal biochemist in the clinical chemistry department, kindly looked at it for me. She said that many chapters have benefited from major revisions that bring them right up to date, with some references as recent as 1985; that it was useful to have a lot of fundamental information in one place but some was not consistent—such as the half life of prealbumin—and it was not always critical enough of methods. She thought that it should be regarded as a teaching book for introducing people to clinical chemistry—in fact, a basic grade biochemist studying for part I of the Mastership of Clinical Biochemistry happened to see it and at once bought a copy.

Attempted Suicide: a Practical Guide to Its Nature and Management. 2nd edn. K Hawton, J Catalan. (Pp 224; £12.50 paperback.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987. ISBN 0-19-261596-3.

Deliberate self poisoning is the most common reason for admitting women as emergencies to general hospitals and the second commonest reason (after ischaemic heart disease) for similar admissions of men (page 10). Fashions change, and the graph on page 15 shows the trends in substances used in Oxford from 1969 to 1984; non-opiate analgesics are top with minor tranquillisers and sedatives second. The usual form of self injury is cutting, especially wrists and arms, but older people choose shooting, drowning, and jumping from heights—with serious suicidal intent; repeated attempts of these are unlikely but are a matter of concern in those taking tablets or cutting themselves, as repeat attempts, which are most likely in the first three months, occur in 25% or more.

This book is authoritative and informative, being based on findings of the attempted suicide research team in the university department of psychiatry in Oxford. Much is new since the 1982 edition: epidemiology of suicide, attempted suicide in adolescents, motivation (for example, pessimism and a sense of hopelessness about the future, and unemployment, are relevant), and psychotropic drugs, for many people who attempt suicide are known to receive repeat prescriptions for these drugs from their general practitioners and this group of patients, state the authors, should be reviewed periodically to establish whether drug treatment is indicated or whether alternative approaches should be used.

The Medical Secretary's and Receptionist's Handbook. 5th edn. M Drury, M Collin. (Pp 376; figs; £7.50 paperback.) London: Baillière Tindall, 1986. ISBN 0-7020-1172-X.

So much is new that this book is worth getting even if a copy is already on the shelf in the medical secretary's office, and a bonus is that this includes Marion Collin's book *Hospital Office Practice*. The 36 chapters are grouped under sections: the development of the health services, general secretarial duties, the secretary/receptionist in the hospital, and the secretary/receptionist in general practice; appendices provide questions for rapid revision for the examination of the Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Administrators and Receptionists—as well as listing useful information such as degrees, terminology, abbreviations, and addresses.

The doctor's receptionist was once called the dragon at the gate, and the importance of the manner of those who first meet the patient is explained—for example, "The out-patient department can make or mar a person's view of the whole hospital" (page 148). One of my outpatient nurses who was kind and efficient appeared unable to smile so I had to take her aside and demonstrate to her the facial contortions that constitute the smile.

I thank Derek Parrott and Derek Shaw of the publishing department of the *BMJ* for educating me about paper.

1 Whitehead A. Additions to the AIDS library. *Br Med J* 1986;293:42.

Some new editions

Black's Medical Dictionary. 35th edn. Ed C W H Havard. (Pp 760; figs; £15.) London: Black, 1987. ISBN 0-7136-2810-3.

Cardiac Arrhythmias. Their Mechanisms, Diagnosis, and Management. 2nd edn. W J Mandel. (Pp 886; figs; £67.50.) Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1987. Distributed by Harper and Row. ISBN 0-397-50561-2.

Cell and Molecular Biology. 8th edn. E D P De Robertis, E M F De Robertis, Jr. (Pp 768; figs; £29.65.) ISBN 0-8121-1012-9.

Chamberlain's Symptoms and Signs in Clinical Medicine. An Introduction to Medical Diagnosis. 11th edn. C Ogilvie, C C Evans. (Pp 604; figs and colour plates; £19.95 paperback, ELBS version available at £9.95.) Bristol: Wright, 1987. ISBN 0-7236-0864-4.

Clinical Disorders of the Shoulder. 2nd edn. L Kessel. (Pp 260; figs; £50.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1986. ISBN 0-443-03451-1.

A Colour Atlas of ENT Diagnosis. 2nd edn, revised. T R Bull. (Pp 256; colour plates, £28 hardback, £14.95 paperback.) London: Wolfe Medical Publications, 1987. ISBN hardback 0-7234-0894-7, paperback 0-7234-0923-4.

Culture of Animal Cells. A Manual of Basic Technique. 2nd edn. R I Freshney. (Pp 416; figs; £45.50.) New York: Liss, 1987. Distributed by John Wiley and Sons. ISBN 0-8451-4241-0.

Current Problems in Orthopaedics. 2nd edn. "Arthroscopic Management of the Knee." D J Dandy. (Pp 236; figs and colour plates; £60.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1987. ISBN 0-443-02958-X.

Current Therapy in Nephrology and Hypertension. 2nd edn. R J Glasscock. (Pp 424; figs; £59.50.) Toronto: Decker, 1987. Distributed by Blackwell Scientific Publications. ISBN 0-941158-77-2.

A Dental Practitioner Handbook. No 10. 2nd edn. "Killey and Kay's Outline of Oral Surgery, Part 1." G R Seward, M Harris, D A McGowan. Series editor D D Derrick. (Pp 400; figs; £15 paperback.) Bristol: Wright, 1987. ISBN 0-7236-0735-4.

A Diagnostic Approach to Chest Diseases. Differential Diagnoses Based on Roentgenographic Patterns. 3rd edn. G A Lillington. (Pp 552; figs; £73.) Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1987. ISBN 0-683-05038-9.

Diagnostic Imaging. 2nd edn. P Armstrong, M L Wastie. (Pp 416; figs; £19.80.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific, 1987. ISBN 0-632-01261-7.

Diseases of the Nose, Throat and Ear. A Handbook for Students and Practitioners. 13th edn. I S Hall, B H Colman. (Pp 416; figs; £9.95 paperback.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1987. ISBN 0-443-03420-6.

Drug Treatment of the Rheumatic Diseases. 3rd edn. Ed F Dudley Hart. (Pp 240; figs; £41.) Sydney: Williams and Wilkins, 1987. ISBN 0-86433-014-6.

Drugs and Pregnancy. Human Teratogenesis and Related Problems. 2nd edn. Ed D F Hawkins. (Pp 366; £17.50.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1987. ISBN 0-443-03314-5.

Eating Disorders. The Facts. 2nd edn. S Abraham, D Llewellyn-Jones. (Pp 176; figs; £8.95 hardback, £4.95 paperback.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987. ISBN hardback 0-19-261665-X, paperback 0-19-261699-4.

Essential Medical Genetics. 2nd edn. J M Connor, M A Ferguson-Smith. (Pp 240; figs; £9.95 paperback.) Oxford: Blackwell Scientific, 1987. ISBN 0-632-01741-4.

Exercises in Diagnostic Radiology. 2nd edn. Vol 5. "Pediatrics." R M Heller, S G Kirchner, G Horev, L F Squire. (Pp 256; figs; £14.95 paperback.) Philadelphia: Saunders, 1987. Distributed by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. ISBN 0-7216-1569-4.

General Microbiology. 5th edn. R Y Stanier, J L Ingraham, M L Wheelis, P R Painter. (Pp 704; figs; £18.95.) London: Macmillan, 1987. ISBN 0-333-41768-2.

Haemostasis and Thrombosis. 2nd edn. Ed A L Bloom, D P Thomas. (Pp 1040; figs; £110.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1987. ISBN 0-443-03190-8.

Ham's Histology. 9th edn. D H Cormack. (Pp 748; figs; £24.95 paperback.) Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1987. Distributed by Harper and Row. ISBN 0-06-320159-3.

Handbook of Community Health. 4th edn. M Grant. (Pp 288; figs; £19.50 paperback.) Philadelphia: Lea and Febiger, 1987. ISBN 0-443-03190-8.

The Harriet Lane Handbook. A Manual for Pediatric House Officers. 11th edn. Ed P C Rowe. (Pp 390; figs; £14.50 paperback.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1987. Distributed by Wolfe Medical Publications. ISBN 0-8151-7379-2.

International Union Against Cancer: TNM Classification of Malignant Tumours. 4th edn. Ed P Hermanek, L H Sobin. (Pp 216; DM 22 paperback.) Berlin: Springer, 1987. ISBN 3-540-17366-8.

Introductory Physics of Nuclear Medicine. 3rd edn. R Chandra. (Pp 256; figs; £18.50 paperback.) Philadelphia: Lea and Febiger, 1987. ISBN 0-8121-1090-0.

Manual of Admitting Orders and Therapeutics. 2nd edn. E B Larson, M S Eisenberg. (Pp 328; £14.95 paperback.) Philadelphia: Saunders, 1987. Distributed by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. ISBN 0-030-12784-X.

Massachusetts General Hospital Handbook of General Hospital Psychiatry. 2nd edn. Ed T P Hackett, N H Cassem. (Pp 670; £22.50 paperback.) Massachusetts: PSG Publishing Company, 1987. Distributed by John Wright and Sons, 1987. ISBN 0-88416-524-8.

The Medical Book of Lists. A Primer of Differential Diagnosis in Internal Medicine. 2nd edn. N J Greenberger, K Berquist, B Marples, A McCarthy. (Pp 412; £11 paperback.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1987. Distributed by Wolfe Medical Publications. ISBN 0-8151-3944-6.

Medical Problems in Dentistry. 2nd edn. C Scully, R A Cawson. (Pp 600; figs; £25.) Bristol: Wright, 1987. ISBN 0-7236-0631-5.

Multiple Choice Questions Related to the Oxford Textbook of Medicine. 2nd edn. Ed C A Quarini. (Pp 144; £8.50 paperback.) Hemel Hempstead: Pastest Service, 1987. ISBN 0-906896-22-3.

Neonatology, Pathophysiology and Management of the Newborn. 3rd edn. Ed G Avery. (Pp 1456; figs; £89.50.) Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1987. Distributed by Harper and Row. ISBN 0-397-50695-3.

The New E for Additives. Completely revised. M Hanssens. (Pp 384; £3.50 paperback.) Wellingborough: Thorsons, 1987. ISBN 0-7225-1562-6.

Operative Surgery and Management. 2nd edn. Ed G Keen. (Pp 1012; figs; £65.) Bristol: Wright, 1987. ISBN 0-7236-0836-9.

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Ultrasound Teaching Cases. 2nd edn. Vol 1. H B Meire, K C Dewbury, D O Cosgrove. (Pp 200; figs; £45.) Chichester: Wiley, 1987. ISBN 0-471-91486-X.

Union Internationale des Laboratoires Independants Register of Members. 8th edn. (Pp 208; DM 15 paperback.) Elstree: Union Internationale des Laboratoires Independants, 1987. ISBN 92-9011-008-2.

Werner's The Thyroid. A Fundamental and Clinical Text. 5th edn. Ed S H Ingbar, L E Braverman. (Pp 1552; figs; £112.50.) Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1987. Distributed by Harper and Row. ISBN 0-397-50802-6.