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Book Review

Introductory Medical Statistics by R. F. Mould. Pitman Medical 1976. Price £4.00.

The great virtue of this book is its readability. For this reason alone it can be confidently recommended to those medical students, undergraduate and post-graduate, who feel insecure when they first dip into statistical waters. Quite apart from this, examples are drawn from an area of medicine with which they are likely to be on nodding terms. This results in a closer relationship with the author than could exist, for instance, with Moroney's *Facts from Figures*, which, at £1.00 in paperback, sells for a quarter of the price but aims at a wider, less specific, readership.

Dr Mould, whose chief interest appears to lie in the field of oncology (judging from a detailed analysis of the calculation of survival rates in Chapter 10), has clearly worked closely with medical doctors and it may be that the effectiveness of his book, which appears to be based on the London M.B. syllabus, owes something to collaboration with the professorial medical staff at the Westminster Hospital. The outcome is certainly a happy one and any prospective M.R.C.P candidate can be assured that as much statistical information as he will be expected to have acquired is included between the hardback covers of this book.

The series of articles recently published in the *British Medical Journal* under the umbrella title of 'Statistics at Square One' bears witness to the growing recognition of the importance of this branch of medical expertise. Dr Mould's book, liberally peppered with 40 diagrams in 90 pages of text, including a useful glossary of symbols, provides a commendable introduction to medical statistics.

J.F.S.