

approach to the care of Groote Schuur Hospital patients. He gave the first systematic course in genetics at the UCT Medical School. In 1961 this included almost all that was known about molecular genetics (in 30 minutes) and about human cytogenetics (in 35 minutes). His major research activities included the analysis of biochemical genetic markers, especially red-cell enzyme polymorphisms, in Cape Town's different population groups, a survey of the ecology of hypertension in these groups, and field studies of several mendelian-genetic disorders, notably lipoid proteinosis. He founded the UCT Medical History Club in 1961, the first of its kind in South Africa, and played a major role in the Health Management committee of SHAWCO for more than a decade. He was patron of the UCT cricket club and took great interest in its progress.

In 1969, Hymie Gordon moved to the Mayo Clinic where he established a Department of Medical Genetics. He remained chairman of that department until he retired from clinical practice in 1990. Hymie was a member of the Genetical Society, Sigma X, American Society for Human Genetics and the American Society for the History of Medicine. He was a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh and London, and of the Royal Society of Medicine and served on the editorial board of the American Journal of Medical Genetics.

In retirement, as Professor Emeritus at the Mayo Clinic, Hymie studied and taught history. This included a 70-lecture course entitled 'History for Physicians'.

Hymie's enthusiasm, whether for genetics, internal medicine, SHAWCO, the history of medicine, music, or culinary art, all of which being areas in which his knowledge was both deep and extensive, was infectious. He was an exciting and stimulating teacher who was much loved by his patients, students and peers.

Hymie enriched the lives of his many friends. His charisma and enthusiasm for his work and for life in general, which he loved to share, will be sorely missed.

## Books

### **Magnesium 1993**

Ed. by S.W. Golf, D. Dralle and J. Vecchiet. Pp. 432. Illustrated. £46,00/US\$85,00. London: John Libbey & Company Limited. 1993. ISBN 0-86196-360-1.

This is the proceedings of the 15th Symposium of the Society for Magnesium Research in Germany, held from 21-23 September 1993. It includes 62 papers presented covering the topics of the congress, namely measuring magnesium levels, magnesium in agriculture and nutrition, magnesium in neurology and psychiatry and magnesium in sports medicine, cardiology, stress, allergology and pulmonology. It contains an extensive subject index.

These proceedings are important to clinicians interested in non-drug medicine, to physiologists, biochemists and dietitians. Veterinarians and agriculturists will also find much of interest in this book.

**C. F. van der Merwe**

### **Maternal-Fetal Toxicology. A Clinician's Guide**

2nd edition. Ed. by Gideon Koren. Pp. 824. \$175,00. New York: Marcel Dekker Inc. 1994. ISBN 0-8247-8841-9.

With the trend towards smaller families in the more urbanised societies, there is an increasing demand by parents for 'perfect' offspring. Teratology is a rapidly developing field and this book is a welcome addition to the reasonably limited reference source books available. It is centred around the experience obtained by the Motherisk Program offered at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and offers a very positive and reassuring opinion for many situations.

The book starts with 'Changes in Drug Disposition in Pregnancy and their Clinical Implications', giving a good explanation of basic principles. The authors thereafter discuss a range of selected drugs (phenytoin, carbamazepine, anti-depressants, benzodiazepines) and their effects on the fetus and during breastfeeding. I have, however, found it difficult to source information on certain specific teratogens when using this book.

Chapters on occupational exposures known to be human reproductive toxins, or commonly encountered by pregnant woman, are not frequently found in other books, and are thus useful.

A section on prenatal diagnosis and sonography in specific situations would be of assistance to the clinician monitoring the pregnancy. The last section is dedicated to the organisation and operation of the Program's teratogen information service. These last two sections make this book excessively long (pp 824).

Overall, this book is of use to those actively counselling families in which maternal-fetal toxicology is a possibility.

**Thomy J. L. de Ravel**

### **General and Oncologic Haematology for Nursing and the Paramedical Professions**

By Peter Jacobs and Lucille Wood. Pp. x + 483. Illustrated. Cape Town: University of Cape Town. 1995. ISBN 0-7992-1618-6.

This very welcome addition to the haematology literature is mainly targeted towards the paramedical support staff that are an increasingly indispensable component of the health care team required for successful diagnosis and management of the patient with haematological disorder. The book succeeds admirably in attaining its objective and by so doing, occupies a unique niche among the rather copious bibliography available on the general topic of haematology.

The layout of the book is logical and systematic. The content is comprehensive, although it is arguably a little too detailed perhaps. I believe this book could become an important aid to haematology/oncology centres throughout the world. The approach is, appropriately, practical and didactic, and this is desirable given the intended readership, although in view of the complex and rapidly changing subject that modern haematology is, frequent and comprehensively revised editions may become necessary.

The text is well written and accurate. However, the reproduction of the photographic material does not always match the quality of the text, although the schematic diagrams are very satisfactory.

These minor criticisms notwithstanding, overall this book is highly recommended.

**B. V. Mendelow**

### **Medical Statistics on Personal Computers\***

2nd Edition. By R. A. Brown and J. Swanson Beck. Pp. ix + 138. Illustrated. £13.00. London: BMJ. 1994. ISBN 0-7279-0771-9.

This text seeks to enable medical research workers to perform rudimentary analyses of their own data, using the computing power of today's personal computers and statistical software packages.

The contents describe basic analyses of measurement data and nominal categorical data, from one, two or more samples, under distributional and distribution-free assumptions. Appropriately the text prefers confidence intervals over p-values.

The notion of correlation and regression between two variables within a single sample is discussed. The assumptions of linear regression are explained and rank correlation is introduced.

Multiple comparisons of samples and of correlation coefficients are discussed at only the simplest of levels. The general picture of increased type 1 error is explained, but the example is flawed.

The text includes the reference range or tolerance interval:

$$\text{sample mean} \pm 1.96 * (1 + \text{root}(3/n)) * \text{SD}$$

for individuals within a standard or healthy population. Comparison of such ranges is linked to the assessment of the sensitivity and specificity of new treatment tests or alternative test criteria.

Use of several weaker indicators through discriminant analysis is presented, and survival curve ideas for effects over time. Final chapters discuss sample size issues and the writing of statistical sections of research reports. Some final remarks compare the packages Minitab, Statgraphics, SPSS-PC+, SAS and Nanostat. Several important competitors are ignored.

Some basic definitions are absent. Most data sets may be real, but are not given and only informally acknowledged. Ordinal categories are largely ignored. The text discusses transformations (log, arcsin, root) but their purposes need better explanation.

While the language is simple and direct, I would have preferred use of the promiscuous 'this' more as adjective, and never as pronoun.

However, my major concerns about this text are the absence of a cost-benefit analysis of consulting a statistician in the design and planning of research (where medical statistics begins) and its rush to data. Moreover it is today no longer sufficient to ignore Bayesian statistics, even in a simple discussive text.

\* Book titles marked may be ordered directly from MASA Publications, Book Department, Private Bag X1, Pinelands, 7430, tel. (021) 531-3081, fax (021) 531-4126.

Criticism is cheap, especially when abbreviated. Nevertheless, the text has merits, but I will await the 3rd edition before accepting that it meets its own objectives.

**Tim Dunne**

### **Manual of Clinical Psychopharmacology**

2nd edition. By Alan F. Schatzberg and Jonathan O. Cole. Pp. xv + 347. R175.00. Washington: American Psychiatric Press Inc. 1991. ISBN 0-88048-318-0.

Psychopharmacological handbooks and textbooks have rarely been described as enjoyable or light medical literature, except by the dedicated few. It is with pleasure that this edition, by two well-known and experienced clinical pharmacologists, is to the contrary and provides an informative and interesting overview of the subject.

The major pharmacological subgroups in psychiatry are dealt with in some detail, and good practical advice is provided, particularly in the areas on antipsychotic, anti-anxiety, hypnotic and stimulant agents. Useful information on initiating and maintaining treatment with these agents is provided, so that the end-user (the patient), has as comfortable a treatment course as possible.

On the negative side: in order to make this handbook enjoyable, readable and clinically relevant, numerous personal observations are liberally scattered throughout the book, but unfortunately references are not cited in the text, which causes some problems in deciding whether these are anecdotal or scientifically validated. There is an extensive bibliography at the end of each chapter, but without the citing of references it makes it difficult to follow up on some of the interesting observations. The chapter on antidepressants, although reasonably comprehensive is a bit dated (this being a 1991 edition), and it gives limited information on the SSRIs and RIMAs. More information could also be provided in the area of overdoses with psychopharmacological agents and their management in an emergency setting.

Despite the above misgivings, this handbook would provide the psychiatric registrar and those general practitioners with an interest in psychiatry with a useful, rational approach to the pharmacological management of psychiatric disorders.

**Don Wilson**

### **Physical Signs in Orthopaedics\***

By Henry John Walsh and Leslie Klenerman. Pp. vii + 90. Illustrated. London: BMJ. 1994. ISBN 0-7279-0845-6.

This book is in the form of a photographic quiz. The answers provided are not only factual but informative as well.

The quality of the photographs is of a very high standard and the physical signs extremely well demonstrated.

It is intended for undergraduate students and for primary health care practitioners, and is highly recommended.

**George Dall**

# Books received

The receipt of these books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits. The *SAMJ* does not publish unsolicited reviews.

***ABC of Emergency Radiology.***\* Ed. by D. A. Nicholson and P. A. Driscoll. Pp. ix + 105. Illustrated. £14,95. London: BMJ. 1995. ISBN 0-7279-0832-4.

***Gastroenterological Problems from the Tropics.***\* Ed. by G. C. Cook. Pp. viii + 138. Illustrated. £14,95. London: BMJ. 1995. ISBN 0-7279-0902-9.

***Cardiac Rehabilitation.***\* Ed. by Dee Jones and Robert West. Pp. 257. £29,95. London: BMJ. 1995. ISBN 0-7279-0852-9.

***Respiratory Support.***\* By Keith Sykes. Principles and Practice Series: Series Eds C. E. W. Hahn and A. P. Adams. Pp. x + 238. Illustrated. £24,95. London: BMJ. 1995. ISBN 0-7279-0830-8.

***The Pre-Hospital Emergency Management Master.***\* By Tim Hodgetts, Iain McNeil and Matthew Cooke. Illustrated. £29,95. London: BMJ. 1995. ISBN 0-7279-0905-3.

***The World Health Report 1995. Bridging the Gaps.*** WHO. Pp. vi + 113. Geneva: WHO. ISBN 92-4-156178-5.

***Screening in Primary Health Care. Setting Priorities with Limited Resources.*** By P. A. Braveman and E. Tarimo. Pp. vii + 196. Illustrated. Sw.fr.30/US\$27,00. Geneva: WHO. 1994. ISBN 92-4-154473-2.

***Pay Less Tax.*** Eighth edition. By Deloitte & Touche. Pp. 218. R49,95. Johannesburg: Susie Fairweather. 1995. ISBN 1-874950-10-9

***Having Gynaecological Surgery.*** By Sally Haslett and Molly Jennings. Pp. 38. Illustrated. £2,95. Buckinghamshire: Beaconsfield Publishers Ltd. 1995. ISBN 0-906584-39-6.