

from Joseph Addison (*The Spectator* No. 66, 10 September 1711): '... the legacies that a great genius leaves to mankind which are delivered down from generation to generation as presents to the posterity of those who are yet unborn'.

Books

Human Physiology

By B. J. Meyer, H. S. Meij and A. C. Meyer. Illustrated. R113,00 (VAT incl.). Kenwyn: Juta. 1994. ISBN 0-7021-2949-6.

From the authors of the popular *Fisiologie van die Mens* now comes its English equivalent, *Human Physiology*. Though not a simple translation of the aforementioned work, its approach, scope, and the setting out are very similar, as are the tables and diagrams.

The book covers the entire field of general physiology, with introductory chapters on the essentials (for physiology) of physics, chemistry and anatomy. There is also an excellent glossary, and tables of normal values. The systems (neurology, cardiovascular, respiratory, etc.) are covered in a well-balanced manner, all in the same amount of detail, using the same style.

The student who buys this book will rarely be left entirely at sea when looking up an unfamiliar term or physiological concept, because the book has at least a few words on every subject, placing it in its right setting. Explanations and perspective are, however, limited; for that the student requires a more comprehensive text.

I would find the book difficult to learn from *de novo*, but as an adjunct to systematic lectures, and for revision before an undergraduate examination, it is invaluable. Possibly *A Summary of Human Physiology* would have been a more appropriate title.

The book is thus clearly aimed at, and admirably suited for, undergraduate students doing a service course in physiology. It is not suited for the average medical graduate or person looking for 'answers' to physiological and pathophysiological problems. It is intentionally too brief for that.

J. H. Koeslag

The Urban Health Crisis: Strategies for Health for All in the Face of Rapid Urbanization

Pp. xvi + 80. Sw.Fr.20,0/US\$18,00. Geneva: WHO. 1993. ISBN 92-4-156159-9.

This World Health Organisation publication is a report of the technical discussions at the 44th World Health Assembly in 1991, dedicated to the subject of the impending health crisis in urban areas. This crisis has its origins in the interaction between the rapid growth of urban populations over the past 40 years and severe environmental degradation, for which urban lifestyles are largely responsible. It is stressed that conditions in cities make it essential that the health problems of urban populations be urgently addressed.

These conditions are also forcing us to challenge the initial assumption of the Health for All strategy, still held by some, that the health problems in rural areas are more urgent than those in the cities.

The report focuses on a number of recurrent themes in these discussions. The first, on environmental health, points out that a narrow sanitary and technical view is no longer adequate in tackling the environmental aspects of urban health. The 'new public health' requires a broader and more integrated agenda or so-called ecological approach to the problems 'that are rapidly storing up threats to human habitats around the world'. This approach requires decentralisation of the urban health system to form district health systems, in which information systems are developed to detect intra-city variations in health status, access is provided through better distribution of facilities, communities are involved in solving the health problems, and horizontal integration is improved between different agencies and sectors.

This report is often quite repetitive in its analysis of the factors responsible for the urban health crisis. It does, however, provide a useful theoretical framework for tackling the very difficult task of re-orientating the health system in a complex urban environment. It comes at a time when this task is high on the national agenda and is recommended to all health professionals presently involved with the restructuring of metropolitan health systems.

G. C. Solarsh

A Guide for Epidemiological Studies of Oral Manifestations of HIV-Infection

S. L. Melnick, R. Nowjack-Raymer, D. V. Kleinman, P. A. Swango. Pp. ix + 27. Sw.Fr.10,00. Geneva: WHO. 1993. ISBN 92-4-154453-8.

The compilation of this guide had its origins in the activities of the International Collaborating Group on Oral Manifestations of HIV-infection, which was established in 1988 as a forum for the development of collaborative endeavours in the field of HIV-diseases. Subsequently, the FDI/WHO Joint Working Group on AIDS was formed in 1989 to assist in the implementation, inter alia, of recommendations of the International Collaborating Group. The goals of the guide are as follows: to provide a systematic approach to the design of epidemiological studies of oral conditions associated with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection; to provide guidelines for the collection, management, analysis, reporting and dissemination of data from these studies; and to facilitate the comparison of findings from different studies and different populations.

It also hopes to encourage all involved practitioners to make oral health status an integral part of the management and surveillance of the diseases associated with HIV infection. Clearly, there are compelling reasons for such a guide.

Although these guidelines were formulated in the context of HIV diseases, they are generalised in nature and are therefore applicable to any proposed epidemiological survey. The text reads easily and is presented in the sequence in

which the guide should be applied. While the contents are of particular value to the inexperienced researcher, seasoned operators cannot but derive benefit. Most important is the role that the guide can play in ensuring an accepted measure of uniformity in the reporting of HIV-associated oral disease by multiple sources.

The publication includes much useful information. The recommended classification of HIV-associated oral diseases as agreed at a meeting of the EEC Clearinghouse on Oral Problems related to HIV Infection (at Amsterdam, 1990) is incorporated as is the proposed criteria for their diagnosis. The epidemiological terminology is clearly defined — a most helpful feature which should minimise misunderstandings.

The recommended statistical methodology is also illustrated. Another useful feature is the very convenient placing of reference sources at the foot of the respective pages on which they are cited. As a parting shot, the authors provide several tables of material for selected further reading.

All in all, the guide is a most desirable acquisition for all serious workers in the field and is highly recommended.

L. S. Maresky

Neurological Emergencies

Ed. by R. A.C. Hughes. Pp. viii + 357. Illustrated. £22.00. London: BMJ. 1994. ISBN 0-7279-0756-5.

During 1993 the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry* published a series of solicited but peer-reviewed articles on neurological emergencies by leading neurologists, neurosurgeons and psychiatrists from Britain and America. Thirteen of the most common neurological emergencies were chosen and the articles have been collected in this handy pocket-sized soft-cover book.

Each chapter ends with a table or outline of recommendations for management that will be a useful *aide memoire* in an emergency. The chapters dealing with coma, stroke, status epilepticus, cerebral infection, neuromuscular respiratory paralysis, visual failure and brainstem death reflect standard practice and sound commonsense.

Of particular value are the psychiatric chapters on delirium and acute behavioural disturbances. These conditions confront many casualty officers when psychiatric help is not always at hand, and such practical guidelines as 'nurse in a well-lit side-room, pay active attention to nutrient, fluid and electrolyte intake and levels, watch carefully for deep-vein thrombosis, chest infection and pressure necrosis when the patient is deeply sedated and use benzodiazepams in withdrawal states and hepatic failure, otherwise use group 3 phenothiazines and butyrophenones' are valuable rapid reminders to an emergency doctor under pressure.

The neurosurgical sections cover the 4 fields of head injury, raised intracranial pressure, subarachnoid haemorrhage and spinal cord compression. The advent of seat-belts and stringent road rules has reduced the number of head injuries in the UK so that most severe head injuries (Glasgow coma scale of 8 or less) can be treated in a neurosurgical intensive care unit with monitoring of arterial and intracranial pressure, intracranial arterial blood flow velocity and jugular bulb oxygen saturation. As a

consequence, the mortality rate in this group of patients has fallen from 50% to between 30% and 40% over the past 2 decades.

The format of the book and its content is aimed at doctors who deal with patients in their most acute and early stage of presentation. Most doctors placed in this position are not neurologists or neurosurgeons and few have been specially trained to deal with diseases of the nervous system. This book is therefore of use not only to the neurological specialists but also to the casualty officers, general practitioners and registrars who confront emergency admissions. The combination of related emergency neuroscientific subjects of 3 specialities is logical and probably unique. The book is good value for money.

V. U. Fritz

Surrogate Motherhood: a Worldwide View of the Issues

By Diederika Pretorius. Pp. xxii + 219. \$54.75. Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 9194. ISBN 0-398-05787-7.

Doctoral theses frequently fail to translate into useful and viable textbooks. This is an exception. It is as good a textbook as it was a thesis.

The author has also bucked another convention viz. that comparative studies are often too superficial to be of use beyond serving as pathfinders on the road to more detailed information on the topic. She has succeeded in surveying a wide cross-section of legal systems and presents, because of her in-depth knowledge of these systems, a thorough synopsis of the law in these jurisdictions.

South African law naturally receives the most thorough treatment. The body of law on surrogacy is not very extensive in our system and what there is, is subjected to a thorough and critical analysis to which, with respect, very little can be added.

Scholars and researchers on the topic will find her clear, incisive discussions of all the leading cases worldwide very useful. The findings of the plethora of commissions of inquiry launched worldwide are chronicled and references are given.

The construction, layout and printing of the book are as good as the years of meticulous research that went into the writing thereof. The book is user-friendly in that the chapters follow a logical sequence, and within each chapter the material is well arranged with liberal use of sub-headings to highlight the many issues dealt with. The extensive footnotes following each chapter are further testimony to the scholarship that went into the work. The reader is also served by a well constructed index and bibliography.

The text comprises clear, well-written English and is characterised by an absence of jargon and legalese. This fact, coupled with the author's success in summarising a great volume of information, makes it easy to read and to follow for practising lawyers, medical practitioners and academics in these fields.

It is a work that fills a gap, not only in South African law. I recommend it without reservation.

M. L. Lupton

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF SA HELD IN THE CONFERENCE CENTRE, PRETORIA HOLIDAY INN, AT 0800 ON MONDAY 20 JUNE 1994.

NOTULE VAN DIE ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING VAN DIE MEDIËSE VERENIGING VAN SA WAT OM 0800 OP MAANDAG 20 JUNIE 1994 IN DIE KONFERENSIESENTRUM, PRETORIA HOLIDAY INN, GEHOU IS.

1. PRESENT

Dr C. J. Krüger	President
Dr P. H. B. Maytom	President Elect
Dr B. B. Mandell	Chairman: Federal Council
Dr P. J. Schutte	Vice-Chairman: Federal Council
Dr H. A. Hanekom	Secretary General

Plus 95 Full Members, including the official representatives of 19 of the 20 Branches and the official representatives of the Speciality Groups, Special Interest Groups and Other Interest Groups referred to in Articles 14, 15, 21.9 and 21.10.

2. CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING

2.1 The President confirmed that in compliance with Sections 179 and 186 of the Companies Act, 1973, and Article 16, read with Article 30, of the Articles of the Medical Association of South Africa, the Secretary-General had duly published an official notification in the May 1994 issue of the *South African Medical Journal* advising members that the 1994 Annual General Meeting of the Association would be held on Monday 20 June 1994 at 0800 in the Pretoria Holiday Inn Conference Centre.

2.2 Die President verklaar dat –

- * 'n Korum van die lede soos bepaal by Statuut 20.2, tenwoordig is.
- * Die vergadering behoorlik gekonstitueer is vir die afhandeling van sake.

3. VOLMAGTE

Twee volmagte word ingehandig.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies on behalf of the following members were recorded:

Professor J. S. Beningfield
Dr J. C. Boden
Dr S. N. du Toit
Professor R. J. E. Erasmus
Dr C. E. Fourie
Dr N. B. Keetse
Dr T. A. M. Mutloane
Dr J. N. Pepler
Dr A. M. Punt
Dr M. E. Sarlie
Dr M. T. Schreiber
Dr P. de V. Smit
Dr A. Stein
Dr D. J. van Druuten
Dr A. J. Venter
Dr M. K. Wickham

5. ALGEMENE JAARVERGADERING: 23 JUNIE 1993: NOTULE: BEKRAGTING

Die notule van die Algemene Jaarvergadering wat op 23 Junie 1993 plaasgevind het, word deur die vergadering bekragtig en deur die President onderteken.

6. JAARVERSLAG: VOORSITTER: AANVAARDING

Die Jaarverslag van die Voorsitter van die Federale Raad, wat vooraf gesirkuleer is, word as gelees beskou en sonder bespreking *eenparig aanvaar*.

7. GROEPSFINANSIËLE JAARSTATE: 1993: AANVAARDING

Die 1993 finansiële jaarstate van die MVSA en sy filiaalmaatskappye, naamlik Medical House (Pty) Ltd en Masafin (Pty) Ltd, asmede dié van Pyramid Publishing (Pty) Ltd, sy assosiaatmaatskappy, wat vooraf gesirkuleer is, word as gelees beskou en sonder bespreking *eenparig aanvaar*.

8. AUDITORS: RE-APPOINTMENT

It was agreed *unanimously* that Messrs Price Waterhouse Meyernel be re-appointed as the official auditors of the Association in respect of the period prescribed in Section 270, read with Section 274, of the Companies Act, 1973.

9. INHULDIGING VAN DR. P. H. B. MAYTOM AS PRESIDENT VAN DIE MVSA

Dr. Johan Krüger lewer 'n oorsig van sy bedrywige en interessante ampstermyn as President van die Mediese Vereniging en maak daarvan gewag dat dit vir hom 'n besondere eer en 'n buitengewone voorreg was om daardie verhewe amp juis in so 'n merkwaardige en gebeurtenisvolle jaar te kon beklee. Hy bring voorts huyldes aan die Voorsitter en die lede van die Raad van Trusteese vir hul lofwaardige toewyding aan die belange van die Vereniging en sy lede en bedank die Sekretaris-generaal en sy uitmuntende personeelkorps vir die hartlike en flinke samewerking en ondersteuning wat hy deurgaans van hulle ontvang het.

Dr. Krüger huldig dr. Maytom as die nuwe President van die MVSA in deur hom die ampsketting om te hang, en spreek vervolgens die oortuiging uit dat dr. Maytom dié welverdiende amp met waardigheid en hoë onderskeiding sal beklee.

Dr Maytom thanked Dr Krüger on behalf of the Association for having discharged the functions of President with such consummate dignity and devotion, and said that he was grateful for the opportunity of promoting the interests of the Association on presidential level.

10. VERDAGING

Die President verdaag die vergadering vir voortsetting om 19h30 op 21 Junie 1994 in die banketsaal van die Pretoria Holiday Inn.

GOEDGEKEUR/APPROVED

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DATUM/DATE

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PRESIDENT