

gists will all find time spent with this book extremely worthwhile.

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**Current Surgical Therapy—2**, ed by John L. Cameron, St. Louis, CV Mosby, 1986, 562 pp, price not given.

This text is the second edition of a popularly received first edition. Each author critically discusses personal views and techniques regarding the surgical treatment of a particular disease entity. As a result, a chapter may not include all available perspectives and options, and some information is duplicated in other chapters. No attempt is made to footnote and reference the material. Students and young surgeons will probably get the most out of this book.

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**Medical Oncology: Basic Principles and Clinical Management of Cancer**, ed by Paul Calabresi, Phillip Schein, and Saul A. Rosenberg, New York, Macmillan, 1985, 1576 pp, \$110.00.

Some well-recognized authors and editors have undertaken the monumental task of writing and organizing this book as a resource for a broad spectrum of medical practitioners. The result is one of the most easily readable and well-referenced textbooks in the field. A vast array of information has been included, from basic science aspects of the biology of cancer, strategies in diagnosis and treatment of specific neoplasms, to supportive care. For the most part, it is a useful guide; however, some chapters, especially those dealing with topics such as hematologic, pediatric, and infectious diseases, as well as bone marrow transplantation, are lacking in details (although more information could be found in the references cited). Also, there is not any organized discussion of cancer-screening procedures.

The material is as current as possible for any textbook. *Medical Oncology* is an excellent source for the general internist and surgeon, as well as other medical personnel.

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**Major Histocompatibility System: The Gorer Symposium**, ed by Peter Medawar and T. Lehner, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 116 pp, price not given.

This book represents the offerings of such renowned scientists as Medawar, McDevitt, Benacerraf, Batchelor, Simpson, Julia and Walter Bodmer, Trowsdale, Dausset, and van Rood in honor of Peter A. Gorer whose pioneering work led to the discovery of the first major histocompatibility system in mice about 50 years ago.

The international symposium was held in London in November 1983. As a consequence of that time lapse, the information in this monograph, although authoritative, is a bit dated. Aside from that, the chapters are individual gems. Each begins with a brief summary, a concise introduction, a readily digestible amount of hard data, and then a sort of scientific denouement. The first four chapters evaluate the structure and polymorphisms of the murine major histocompatibility system, the significance of major histocompatibility restriction, its role in immunologic enhancement, and minor transplantation antigens. The last four chapters address questions regarding the human HLA system, focusing on the molecular genetics of the HLA-D region, the involvement of HLA and disease susceptibility and resistance as studied by the new techniques of DNA restriction-length polymorphisms, the role of HLA-DRw6 in renal transplantation, and the provocative interactions between certain endorphins and HLA class I molecules relevant to the treatment of schizophrenia.

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**Lecture Notes on Clinical Medicine**, 3d ed, by David Rubenstein and David Wayne, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 374 pp, price not given.

This book is directed primarily at the newly graduated house officer and is oriented specifically for the type of examinations administered by the Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom. The text consists of two parts: the clinical approach and essential background information.

The clinical approach deals mainly with the cornerstone of British medical teaching—the physical examination. Instead of simply elaborating on the various techniques, this section shows how best to comply with specific requests by examiners during an actual test situation. Included are the correct ways to respond to “Examine this patient’s arms [or legs] neurologically,” “Watch this patient walk,” “Look at this patient’s face,” “Question and examine this jaundiced [or uremic] patient,” “Comment on this blood count,” etc. There is even a page and a half for “What do you

think of this rash?" The subject matter is brief, basic, and to the point, and is delightfully free of the esoteric trivia one too often finds plaguing medical texts. Of special note: diabetes mellitus is the only disease that has merited a complete chapter.

The essential background information begins with a brief description of common neuromuscular disorders. An overview of cerebrovascular disease is especially well done. The chapter dealing with connective tissue and rheumatologic diseases is predictably dominated by discussions of rheumatoid arthritis. The section about endocrine disease includes thyroid and adrenal disorders, while diabetes mellitus is grouped under metabolic diseases along with porphyria, carcinoid syndrome, and metabolic bone disease. Remaining sections are devoted to renal, hepatic, gastrointestinal, respiratory, and cardiovascular disorders. A concise section dealing with dermatology is followed by a similar discourse about hematology. A five-page chapter about drug overdoses outlines only the very general principles of management. The last chapter, entitled "Imported Diseases," comprises malaria, typhoid, dysentery, giardiasis, and helminthic infections. These are increasingly seen in the British Isles with the growth of the Asian subpopulation and are becoming an integral part of British medical teaching.

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**Interpretation and Uses of Medical Statistics**, 3d ed, by Geoffrey J. Bourke, Leslie E. Daly, and James McGilvray, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 330 pp, \$25.95.

As noted by the authors in the preface, this book is designed to introduce basic concepts of statistics and their application to medicine to readers who have had no formal training in statistical theory or methods. Assumptions required for various statistical procedures and interpretation of results of analyses are emphasized rather than calculation techniques. This third edition expands on earlier editions by including more detail regarding a wide range of commonly used statistical tests, including nonparametric procedures. Computational details are provided only if they are

practicable with a pocket calculator. New chapters dealing with study design and methodology emphasize the need for careful planning and execution of research projects.

The first eight chapters of the book discuss concepts typical of an introductory statistics text—descriptive statistics, probability, point and interval estimation, hypothesis testing, and regression analysis. However, in these basic discussions, reference is also made to statistical power calculations; regression to the mean; and nonlinear, multiple, and logistic regression. Chapters 9 and 10 are concerned with research methodology and study design. Chapter 9 describes observational studies such as cross-sectional, prospective, and case-control studies. Chapter 10 is devoted entirely to a discussion of the randomized clinical trial. Chapter 11 is about the use of vital statistics data in medical research and outlines some of the common techniques in this area. Chapter 12 discusses the use of the computer in medical research. The concluding section of the book examines the source of bias present in many studies. Some guidelines are presented for the critical reading of the medical literature and for the development of a research project. Four appendixes are included which provide details about computational methods, statistical tables, and sample size formulas. An annotated bibliography lists a number of books and articles for further reading.

*Interpretations and Uses of Medical Statistics* is highly recommended both for the medical students who may only require an introduction to broad principles and for researchers who require more detailed knowledge of statistics and study design. The topics are covered more extensively than in the usual basic statistics textbook. References are current. Explanations are articulate. This reviewer found few substantive points of disagreement with the authors. One example, however, is that the randomization schedule presented on page 189 uses an algorithm that will produce bias between treatment groups in terms of variables that are correlated with time. Consistent with its stated purpose, the book does not contain any exercises for the reader to reinforce knowledge of the textual material presented. The book contains very few typographical errors and is printed with an aesthetically pleasing layout.

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