

ham, on other hospitals in the county and on teaching in non-teaching hospitals. The chapter on 'Materia non-medica et para-medica' is a mine of information, including the great Norfolk medical naturalists John Caius, Sir James Paget and Sir Thomas Brown, also frequently mentioned elsewhere in the book. Other sections include medicine and music, medicine and art, Norfolk and nursing with the memory of Edith Cavell, for whom there is still an annual service at Norwich. With many excellent photographs and a fine bibliography, this book is a notable contribution to medical history as well as being a most readable book.

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Diving and subaquatic medicine. 3rd edition. By Carl Edmonds, Christopher Lowry and John Pennefather. Butterworth-Heinemann Ltd, Oxford, 1992. 565pp. £49.50.

Diving is a rapidly developing sport in the UK. It is therefore probable that most doctors qualifying now will have some contact with divers as patients and a growing number of them will be faced with diving related disorders. Few, however, will have had any teaching in the specific physiology, pathology or management problems associated with diving. This new edition of a well established textbook will bring this area of medicine to their notice and stimulate their interest in it.

The text has undergone extensive revision and expansion to take account of the wide ranging developments that have occurred in the decade since the last edition. In so doing its status has effectively moved from being a valuable handbook of diving medicine to being the principal textbook on the subject.

The subject material covers the historical aspects of the development of diving, and ranges from the essential basic physics and physiology to the pathology and clinical features of the dysbaric disorders and the pharmacological effects of pressure itself and of gases at pressure. There are extensive sections on immersion injury, marine animal attack and the wide variety of other disorders relevant to diving. Sections on diving accidents and fatalities and their investigation provide a further perspective of the pathophysiological processes involved.

The Australian authors have vast experience of diving medicine in a country where sport diving is much more popular than in the UK and where a wider range of hazards is encountered. They have supplemented the text with a large number of illustrative case reports together with many diagrams, radiographs and plates. Highlighting brief summaries and maxims serves to emphasise the crucial points. They are particularly valuable as more UK divers are pursuing their sport abroad.

The authors have sensibly avoided completely aban-

doning the traditional classification of the decompression disorders which, though recognised as deficient, will no doubt remain in widespread use for many years. They draw attention to the need for these disorders to be classified in a more descriptive manner based on the organ involved.

The text concludes with three short chapters. Those on hyperbaric medicine and submarine medicine serve as brief introductions to topics in which physicians with a commitment to diving may find themselves involved. The chapter on deep and on saturation diving is a little disappointing although the authors state the topic is beyond the scope of the book. From an occupational health viewpoint, saturation diving forms such an important and extensive part of commercial diving that this represents a deficiency as an occupational medicine textbook. A discussion on mixed gas (helium) diving problems would also have been of value as such techniques are beginning to be adopted by the sport diving community.

Revision has swelled the book to a tome but it has managed to retain the humour which is one of its most unique characteristics and makes it easy and enjoyable reading.

Overall, this book must be highly recommended. It has become the standard textbook for our certificate courses in underwater medicine in Aberdeen and should be read by every physician with an interest in diving. I would also recommend anyone about to write a medical textbook to examine its format as an example.

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National AIDS manual. Edited by Peter Scott, NAM Publications Ltd, London, 1992. 450pp £195.00.

This very substantial text is the third volume of the National AIDS Manual, a major UK resource for people working with or affected by HIV/AIDS; it is available as a separate volume. It provides information about established and investigational therapies for HIV or AIDS at various levels so as to encompass the lay and the specialist reader. It also considers the context and background to therapeutic decisions, from both the patients' and the clinicians' perspectives. As a practical information resource in a rapidly moving field, this volume is designed as a subscription edition so as to allow regular updates, and the ring-binder format facilitates the inclusion of additional material.

This formidable tome represents the results of a great deal of painstaking work by many individuals. Yet its tone and style are notably consistent and the presentation of material is well balanced, while not eschewing controversy. The accuracy in both the specifics and the broader conceptual aspects is commendable and puts a number of more conventional reviews to shame. The view is evidently from and on