

Juniors, whether preparing for an audit meeting or revising for the Intercollegiate examination, will find it indispensable. This book should certainly be found in the library of every department of cardiac and thoracic surgery.—JHD

Lecture Notes on Respiratory Disease. 4th ed. R A L Brewis. (Pp 317; £12.95.) Oxford: Blackwell, 1991. ISBN 0-632-02777-0.

This book, which is a member of the popular "Lecture Notes" series, has been written as a concise introductory text to the essentials of respiratory medicine. It is into its fourth edition and there has been an obvious effort to keep the text up to date. The book is structured in a standard format. The first section discusses aspects of lung structure and function, and includes a clearly written review of respiratory physiology with effective use of models to explain some difficult concepts. This is followed by a section that focuses on diagnostic techniques. Chest radiology forms an integral part of respiratory medicine, and the author has provided a useful, simple description of the elements of chest radiographs as well as of computer tomograms of the thorax. The emphasis of this book is on practical aspects of the more common respiratory problems seen in clinical medicine and some new chapters have been added here, including chapters introducing the rapidly expanding areas of respiratory disease in patients with AIDS and the immunocompromised and of ventilatory failure and sleep apnoea. I was disappointed that there was not more discussion of the pharmacology of drugs used in the treatment of some respiratory disorders and perhaps a larger section on assisted ventilation. In addition, there are occasional irritating typesetting errors. Overall, however, this book is very well written in an easy to read, concise style and it is supplemented by many excellent illustrations. It has been primarily aimed at the medical student but it would also be a useful

reference for the junior hospital doctor and the MRCP candidate. Priced at £12.95 it is good value for money.—CW

Atlas of Rare Chest Diseases in Children. J Rudnik, R Kurzawa. (Pp 192; no price given.) Rabka, Poland: National Research Institute of Mother and Child, 1991. ISBN 83-00-03293-2.

This atlas contains 56 reports of rarities, largely from the National Research Institute of Mother and Child in Rabka, Poland. I envy them their 640 beds for paediatric respiratory medicine and their wealth of clinical material. Clearly the investigative facilities as revealed here are not fully up to modern standards. The computed tomograms are scanty and there are no nuclear magnetic resonance images. In consequence, bronchography is performed far more often than in Western Europe. The planning of each report is good, and there are some interesting cases; there is a presentation, imaging studies, and pathological material. The illustrations are copious but tend to be poorly reproduced; and it is not easy to get used to reversed radiographs (black bones, white air). Latin is overused ("compressio trachea post destropositionem arteriae pulmonalis sinistrae" does not often trip off the tongue in my hospital). Unfortunately, no attempt is made to use these fascinomas to illustrate general principles. There is no mention of paediatric HIV. The use of fiberoptic bronchoscopy and trans-bronchial biopsy is not explored. The references are grouped alphabetically at the end of the book, rather than being attached to the case report to which they refer, and some are incomplete and outdated. But this is a very impressive attempt at producing a text of fascinating problems with limited funding and facilities. The authors are to be congratulated on their enterprise. This is mainly a book for the medical historian, possibly a book to skim but not one to buy for yourself.—AB

NOTICE

British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology conference

The society's 1992 annual conference will be held on 7-9 September at the University of Southampton. Further information from Amanda Barber, Conference Associates and Services Ltd, BSACI 1992, Congress House, 55 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7RE (tel 071 486 0531, fax 071 935 7559).

CORRECTION

Cystic fibrosis: current survival and population estimates to the year 2000

In the paper by JS Elborn *et al* (December 1991;46:881) the address for reprint requests should be: Section of Respiratory Medicine, University of Wales College of Medicine, Llandough Hospital, Penarth, South Glamorgan CF6 1XX.