

**Cardiovascular Pathophysiology.** MB Gravanis. (Pp 478; soft cover £18.95.) McGraw-Hill. 1987. ISBN 0-07-024131-7.

Text books on any topic tend to be dated on publication. This generalisation does not apply to this book which is an up to date account of the cardiovascular system coordinating pathology with physiology, clinical manifestations, and haemodynamic changes. All topics are covered and separate chapters on cardiovascular injuries and heart failure are included. Controversial issues such as myocarditis are critically discussed in the light of recent developments. Current problems—for example, ageing and mitral valve prolapse—are highlighted. Each chapter, without exception, is exhaustively reviewed and amply provided with excellent drawings.

Though designed to provide the medical student with a comprehensive account, in my opinion this text exceeds that goal. Many postgraduate students and experienced physicians will find this concise volume of great value, clarifying their perhaps not quite up to date concepts. Dr Gravanis and the 10 contributors should be congratulated for enriching the literature with this text. I can unreservedly recommend it.

EGJ OLSEN

**Analytical Procedures for Therapeutic Drug Monitoring and Emergency Toxicology.** 2nd ed. RC Baselt. (Pp 329; £34.) Wright. 1987. ISBN 0-88416-722-4.

The first edition of this book, published in 1980, was, and is, a useful collection of analytical methods for about 100 chemical substances, ranging from trace elements and toxic anions to anaesthetic agents and therapeutic drugs. The second edition reprints nearly all of these methods word for word, together with new sections on amikacin, cannabinoids, cimetidine, cyclosporin, tetracyclic antidepressants, tobramycin, and verapamil. For each substance, there is a brief introduction (with an indication of the therapeutic and fatal concentrations in relevant body fluids, and the plasma half-life), followed by a summary statement of the principle of the analytical method, the reagents needed, instrumental conditions, procedure, calculation, evaluation (linearity, precision etc.), interferences, and key references. Most of the references antedate

the 1980 edition, which is a pity because there have been significant advances in the analytical toxicology of important substances like chlorpromazine and cyanide. It is surprising, also, that the methods have been reprinted without the addition of structural formulae of the compounds themselves or their metabolites. The index of the first edition is more comprehensive than that of the second. The telegraphic layout of the methods is fine for laboratories which are experienced in chemical toxicology, but the book is not to be recommended for beginners in the subject.

SS BROWN

## Notices

### Journal of Clinical Pathology

#### Symposium

Thursday October 6, 1988

at 2 p.m.

at the British Medical Association

*How to write a scientific paper and get it published*

Speakers will include Dr Stephen Lock, Editor, *British Medical Journal*, Dr John Lilleyman and Dr David Lowe, Editor and Deputy Editors, *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, Caroline White, Technical Editor, and Bill Friend, Head Reader at Eyre and Spottiswoode printers.

**Cost £10 — Limited number of places available**

*For further details please contact: Mrs Mavis Burrell, Journal of Clinical Pathology, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR*

### The London Hospital

#### Advanced Histopathology Evening Course

The course will be held at The London Hospital, Institute of Pathology on *Monday evenings at 6.30 pm beginning October 3, 1988*. It is designed to help candidates sitting the Final MRCP Path Examination and will consist of *10 seminars alternating with lectures*. At the first session each student will be given 10 slides on which to write reports which will be posted to the organisers prior to the slide seminar to be held a fortnight later. The reports will be critically marked and the slides discussed at the seminar with the help of a microprojector. Further slide sets will be given out thereafter.

The slides are retained by the students and provide a valuable collection.

The slide seminars are limited to 20 students.

Course fee £100.00 (lectures only £40.00).

Applications to: Dr DJ Pollock, Department of Morbid Anatomy, The London Hospital, Whitechapel, London E1 1BB.

### ACP Locum Bureau

The Association of Clinical Pathologists runs a locum bureau for consultant pathologists.

Applicants with the MRC Path who would like to do locums and anyone requiring a locum should contact Dr DH Orrell, Department of Pathology, Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Ashton Road, Lancaster LA1 4RP.

### Silver Jubilee British Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology London, 4-7 July 1989

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Details from: Congress Organiser, Caroline Roney, Congress House, 65 West Drive, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 7NB  
Tel: 01-661 0877