written by experts from the USA; it is neither a manual of coronary care nor a comprehensive review of all aspects of myocardial ischaemia.

Does the book succeed? In my view, yes. The format is traditional: pathology and pathophysiology, clinical aspects of the routine case, electrical and mechanical complications, special interventions, and post-infarction assessment are covered in sequence. Most contributors are interventionists but enthusiasm is tempered by the cold reality of clinical experience. The reviews are judiciously and comprehensively documented, and all the major growth areas seem to be represented. Should the book be bought? Perhaps. State-of-the-art books have intrinsic obsolescence: in areas of rapid advance (thrombolysis, special interventions, post-infarct management) relevance may be transient, and there is no scarcity of competing reviews in journals and magazines. Even so, I enjoyed it.

Milton Keynes General Hospital,
Milton Keynes MK6 5LD, UK

D. J. GWILT

The Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphomas


There have been half a dozen books on non-Hodgkin lymphoma published in the last few years so any newcomer will be very critically examined to see if it really makes a useful contribution. Most of the others have been multi-author collections of reviews without much evidence of a strong editorial input, and they have often been of limited value. Dr Magrath’s book, I suggest, is the best book on non-Hodgkin lymphoma of recent years and should move rapidly to become the standard text with which all other offerings will be compared. It is comprehensive and balances basic biological understanding with clinical information. Magrath uses an appropriately cautious interpretation of current classifications and is as up-to-date as it is possible to be in a fast-moving clinical and basic science area. The strengths of the book lie in the consistency of the chapters, which are appropriately balanced for length, style, and content. I suspect a great deal of editorial effort has gone into maintaining this consistency and filling gaps left by individual contributors. Although dominated by North Americans the text has appropriate contributions from Europe and elsewhere. The reference lists are up-to-date to 1988 and are adequate if not encyclopaedic. All those interested in non-Hodgkin lymphomas should make sure they have access to this book, which I expect to see in many editions as the future standard specialist text.

Institute for Cancer Studies,
St James’s University Hospital,
Leeds LS9 7TF, UK

PETER SELBY

Rebel with a Cause: the Autobiography of Hans Eysenck


Hans Eysenck is a psychologist; in fact, as his autobiography emphasises, the most cited living psychologist—although Freud, his long-term bête noire, beats him in the all-time stakes. He is best known for the much used Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ), which accounts partly for its authors’ citation success (plural, since Sybil, his wife, also ranks high). Perhaps here one merely grows suspicious of bibliometry as a scientific tool: if properly cited then the inventors of the ruler and the clock should automatically head the citation lists. Eysenck has also worked on psychometrics and factor analysis, helped establish behaviour therapy and the profession of clinical psychology, and published on experimental aesthetics, personality, and intelligence.

Principally, though, Eysenck is seen as a populist and a controversialist. Three Pelican paperbacks of the 1950s and 1960s, starting with Uses and Abuses of Psychology, undoubtedly first interested many in psychology; and in the late 1960s, when I worked as a hospital porter between school and university, they were often in my brown-coat pocket. Eysenck particularly loves fighting for a controversial, unfashionable position. After battles over Freud and psychotherapy, he became embroiled over race and intelligence, astrology and personality, and cigarettes and cancer, the last fuelling his life-long distrust of medicine and doctors.

The personality seen in the book is less attractive than colleagues suggest; and it is hardly revealed in the EPQ’s description of a stable introvert of average psychometric. His ego is strong and knows its own rectitude; as his mother said, “Uncalled-for modesty was never a fault of his”. Poor attention to detail manifests in proof-reading errors: he refers to the “great mathematician, T. Hardy”, he believes DHSS means Directorate of Health and Social Services, he misquotes foreign quotations (Puccini’s Che gelida manina presumably being a paean of love to a cold little brown envelope), and he refers to “African-speaking whites” in South Africa (a sign that the book was dictated not written). He also apparently conflates two controversial Birmingham lectures of the early 1970s; my diary account suggests that it was Feb 7, 1973, not Nov 16, when the University Library was daubed with the oxyzoronic graffiti, “Fascist Eysenck has no right to speak! Uphold genuine academic freedom!”.

The author’s rather cold style works well for popular science but reveals neither the inner man nor his driving forces. The title reflects the failure: the cause for which he rebelled is never clear. Nevertheless the book provides an interesting if partisan account of British psychology since the 1939–45 war. Eysenck speculates little on his personality’s origins beyond attributions to genes for a “naturally good hand-eye coordination”, a “natural aptitude for skiing”, excellent memory, linguistic ability, and even specific attitudes, and an inability at drawing or music. Even if half of personality variance is genetic, one hoped for a little more insight from a major personality theorist.

Department of Psychiatry,
St Mary’s Hospital Medical School,
London W2 1NY, UK

CHRIS McMANUS

New Editions


