BOOK REVIEWS

The Year Book of Emergency Medicine 1985
Edited by D. K. WAGNER

The aim of this book is to present a series of abstracts of interest and clinical use to the emergency physician in practice. In my view, it fulfils this function admirably. The editorial control is in the hands of a group of emergency physicians and has remained stable since the inception of the series 5 years ago, with some recent additions.

This is not to say that I am totally uncritical of the book. There is at least one example of twin reporting of similar articles on toxic shock syndrome (4·67 and 4·74), suggesting poor communication between authors. The index of subjects is not as useful as I would have hoped, although the author index is very thorough. This, however, means that one must read all the abstracts in order to avoid missing one of importance.

The change in external appearance of the volume, whilst aiming to improve its ‘selling power’, has made a noticeable step on my bookshelf, which I find a little irritating after only 5 years on the market. The change in the internal layout, however, is most welcome.

Yearbooks of this nature, with expert comment from physicians working in the speciality, are always 1–2 years ‘in arrears’. Although this may be levelled as a criticism by some, I can see no alternative. An ‘ON-LINE’ service would place a much greater burden on its editors, detracting from their clinical work and, thereby, lessening the value of their comments.

I feel that this volume, and its future issues, should be on the shelf of every clinician who professes to keep abreast of the latest information and research in accident and emergency medicine. Its price puts it beyond the reach of the casual browser and I would expect that most juniors would end up reading their consultant’s copy.

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Trauma—The First Hour
Edited by WILLIAM G. BAXT

This is the best book on the initial management of major trauma that I have read. All the authors are members of a ‘rotocraft aeromedical emergency care service’ and it is clear that they have extensive experience and lots of tips to pass on to the reader. However,