of neuroleptics; and I was surprised to see that intramuscular Chlorpromazine produces plasma levels four to ten times an equal oral dosage. There were unequivocal statements that antidepressants are superior to outpatients than inpatients and that a withdrawal syndrome from antidepressants due to their anticholinergic effects is well recognized. I had never heard that Lithium causes hyperparathyroidism and that Diazepam was perfectly well absorbed IM from the deltoid but not the gluteal region. Neither did I know that L-Tryptophan is a specific treatment for insomnia due to serotonergic effects and produces no withdrawal syndrome, nor that Propranolol and Clonidine are useful for neuroleptic-induced akathisia. The remaining chapters on drug side effects, drug withdrawal, overdose and ECT are useful sources of information, while that on Amytal interview is something of an anachronism.

Overall, the Psychotropic Drug Handbook belongs in the pocket of every North American psychiatric resident. However, European psychiatrists will be less keen on talk of ‘megadosage’ and a preoccupation with the monitoring of plasma levels of antidepressants in clinical practice. In particular, the omission of drugs unlicenced in the USA, such as Pimozide, Mianserin and Nitrazepam is a serious disadvantage to those outside the USA.

In particular, I cannot see a place for this work in the pockets of specialists in accident and emergency medicine who presumably have little interest in much of the subject matter except for that on the treatment of overdose, for which they would surely require a much larger work of reference; and, secondly, the book has little to offer on the management of psychiatric emergencies.

PHILIP SUGARMAN
Department of Psychiatry,
Withington Hospital,
Manchester, England

Current Therapy in Critical Care Medicine

The concept of a single volume that could be regularly updated to reflect current consensus management in the field of critical care is commendable and this would appear to be the aim of the editor according to the preface. The book is wholly North American and predominantly from the north and eastern United States. There are virtually no references and statements are necessarily didactic although sometimes controversial. Unfortunately, the book fails to meet its stated objectives in many sections and often resembles a textbook of internal medicine with simply suggestions for therapy. The limited selection of drugs and resuscitation fluids available is particularly noticeable to the European reader in the recommendations for treatment. However, some sections are excellent and give up-to-date summaries of current management which are, unfortunately, let down by lax editing, leading to repetition, and poor proof reading in other sections.
In short, some useful reviews of the American approach which should be in the library and every ICU, but not for the individual at £44.00.

P. NIGHTINGALE
Intensive Care Unit,
Withington Hospital,
Manchester, England

**Diagnostic Picture Tests in Orthopaedics**
By L. KESEL & U. F. BOUNDY
£6.50.

This slim and conveniently sized volume contains a wealth of illustrations relevant to the practice of orthopaedic surgery. The production standard of the volume is extremely high and the illustrations range from the common orthopaedic conditions which are met within everyday clinical work to uncommon problems seen on rare occasions. The text is brief, factual and well presented with the salient points clearly shown and relevant diagnostic points indicated in a concise fashion.

The book will prove to be a useful aid memoir for those unusual conditions that one has heard of but cannot remember the exact features, and the book should prove to be extremely popular with medical students and post-graduate students pursuing an orthopaedic career. Those readers who follow-up the details of the answers in the text will find themselves led into the broader uplands of orthopaedic reading with benefit to their general medical education.

J. D. EVANS
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery,
Wythenshaw Hospital,
Manchester, England