advice; the sections devoted to infective endocarditis and secondary prevention of coronary heart disease are particularly good value.

What of shortcomings? That there are insufficient definite answers is not the fault of the authors. The disorders of lipid metabolism receive attention in three chapters which leads to some overlap. I fear the attempt by Nora and Nora to modify the WHO/Fredrickson classification to introduce an alternative IIb and make the old IIb into Type VI has little prospect of success; the misprint in the title on page 14 with 'Type III' replaced by 'Type II' rather symbolizes the likely increase in confusion. Recent recombinant DNA advances in the study of lipoproteins are likely, in any case, to transform the classification in the near future. The relationship of these advances to lipid biochemistry and disease states might usefully have been included together with perhaps a chapter on the psychology of prevention and how best to counsel patients about cessation of smoking and other changes of lifestyle.

'Preventive Cardiology' is a valuable book, worthy of a wide readership.

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The Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and Infections of Homosexual Men
P Ma & D Armstrong (ed) pp 442
New York: Yorke Medical 1984
Over 50 American contributors, many with extensive experience of AIDS, have collaborated to produce a book for clinicians on infectious diseases to which homosexual men are particularly prone because of their preference for unusual sexual practices with multiple partners. The first half of the book deals with the usual infections from anal syphilis to amoebiasis, and from gonococcal pharyngitis to giardiasis. The second half covers AIDS as comprehended by nearly all American physicians and medical scientists in mid-1983, i.e. a disturbance of cell-mediated immunity unique to male homosexuals producing a range of opportunistic infections and neoplasms of Byzantine complexity.

The format of the book is based on several fundamental misconceptions about AIDS which the book helps to perpetuate. One author states categorically, 'Acquired immune deficiency syndrome is a disease of homosexual men'. He confidently adds that the statistical chances of AIDS not being fundamentally a homosexual disease is 100 million-to-one against, 'give or take a zero'.

The underlying assumption throughout the book, which at times is made explicit, is that AIDS is a syndrome of immunological deficiency of multiple causation which developed uniquely in the setting of male homosexual behaviour in the USA in the early 1980s. The cause of AIDS is seen as collapse of the immune system caused by multiple viral bacterial and parasitic infections combined with promiscuity, drug abuse, semen in the rectum and other yet-to-be-discovered factors.

If there is a new virus involved it is assumed to have evolved from the microbiological brew of modern American promiscuous homosexuality like some genie out of a bottle.

Although the book was written in 1983 and published in mid-1984 there is not even a suggestion that AIDS might be a specific, persistent, lymphotropic virus disease transmitted in blood which was already rife in heterosexual men and women in Haiti and in central Africa. There is no hint in the book that AIDS might have been observed initially in American homosexuals merely because of the ease with which blood-borne infections are transmitted by anal intercourse, whereas most of the more orthodox means of explosive transmission of blood-borne virus diseases no longer exist in prosperous countries.

The book is of historical interest in showing how so many medical scientists misinterpreted for so long the pathogenesis and transmission of AIDS, the broad outlines of which, within the context of modern scientific knowledge, are so simple. Reading the book reminded me of one definition of experts: people who get every detail correct as they sweep on to the grand fallacy. 100 million-to-one against – indeed!

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Manual of Intensive Care Medicine
(With Annotated Key References)
J M Rippe & M E Csete (ed) pp 465
US$17.95 ISBN 0-316-74708-4
Boston: Little, Brown & Co 1983
This easily-read manual, written in outline form, is divided into 3 sections. The first 9 chapters clearly describe routine techniques such as intubation, central venous pressure measurement and arterial catheter placement and care. The latter chapter, however, regretfully recommends replacing a needle through the Teflon catheter if difficulty is encountered when threading the catheter. The final 10 sections are devoted to nursing procedures, including routine line care. The Centers for Disease Control guidelines are clearly advocated, although the references are omitted.

The main part of the book concentrates on providing concise practical information on the problems encountered in the Intensive Care Unit and the decisions which must be made. The section
on cardiopulmonary resuscitation is marred only by the lack of comment on the role of calcium blockers, and the section on the diagnosis of brain stem death reflects difficulties which the criteria of the Royal Colleges in the UK have helped overcome. The reader on this side of the Atlantic will also note the difference in drug therapy particularly for antiarrythmics and antibiotics.

The tables are clear, the index is good and the reference lists at the end of each chapter are up to date and helpful. Overall this is a useful addition to the bookshelf for physicians and nurses working in intensive care.

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William Munk (1816–1898) was a Vice President of the Royal College of Physicians of London and he edited an edition of the Gold Headed Cane in 1884, but he is, of course, best known for his Roll. The first edition, published in 1861, contained 1351 biographies of Fellows and Licentiates. Volume IV, containing biographies of 874 Fellows, covered a century (1826–1925) and was published in 1955 for 42 shillings.

Volume VII contains biographies of 414 Fellows who died during the period 1976–1983, and includes 348 photographs which are a most useful addition to the text. The bulk of the material in this volume has been provided by contemporaries and members of the families of deceased Fellows, which gives the work a unique freshness and intimacy. The price might be considered rather high even in these inflated days, and the production is only moderate.

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Heat Stroke and Temperature Regulation
Sydney: Academic Press 1983

This book records the proceedings of an international workshop on heat stroke convened as part of the Saudi Arabian Health Ministry’s efforts to deal with the problem of heat illness among the two million pilgrims who now journey to Mecca each year. The result is a well presented survey of major heat illness which should appeal to a variety of interests.

For the clinician who only occasionally meets the problem there are excellent summaries of current opinion and recommendations for management of heat stroke and heat exhaustion. Other papers discuss in detail current aspects of thermoregulation, aetiological factors in heat illness, and the multisystem disorders which may result from hyperpyrexia. Possible prophylactic measures are not forgotten. The whole is backed by an extensive bibliography.

I enjoyed this book and recommend it to those who may treat heat illness or who study the pathophysiology of heat- or exercise-associated disease.

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Traumatic Disorders of the Ankle
New York: Springer-Verlag 1984

The editor of this book states in his preface that his object has been to bring together the wealth of information on the subject of ankle injuries for orthopaedic surgeons in training. His objective has been achieved, and he has provided an interesting and balanced account. Fourteen chapters are devoted to the variety of possible injuries, with four introductory sections on anatomy, function and radiography. Inevitably, the bulk of the book is taken up by fractures involving the ankle mortise.

The suggested management is predominantly by open reduction and internal fixation along the lines put forward by the AO school, although the editor admits that conclusive clinical evidence for the superiority of the operative approach is still lacking. The section on injuries of the talus is particularly clear and succinct. The radiographs are well reproduced and a credit to the publishers.

Armed with this volume, any orthopaedic surgeon should be able to deal safely and effectively with the majority of injuries around the ankle that are encountered.

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