

thinking like this that the NHS has its current faults and that the profession is so poorly paid.

The danger lies in accepting apathetically that *wants* will always be greater than *needs* which will always be greater than *resources*. That statement is not unchallengeable because as it is currently used it is a motto for a defeated NHS and for those doctors who can wash their hands of the need for improvement. Only when financed by treasury and budgeted for out of national income is a health care system subject to that ruling.

Only by changing the whole system to one based on an insurance scheme, perhaps along the lines of other EEC countries, can there be hope of im-

proving our health care system.

There must of course be adequate safeguards for the chronic sick and the poor and there will never be a health care system like that of the USA in this country. Under the circumstances of insurance-financed medicine, needs will assume a different character and be more likely approximate to wants because they will be modified by the personal responsibility of each patient. New resources will be created overnight.

I believe that with time and strength we can improve and change the existing NHS. With these changes will come a change in general practice that many of today's leaders will not have planned for, but, with a strong College providing leadership and good example,

with a strong General Medical Council providing discipline and educational safeguards, our patients will have a better system.

My admiration for Sir George Godber must remain limited. He may have held the city walls for a period of time but now his ideas must give way to a new design that will establish a health care system and general practice in this country for the next century.

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BOOK REVIEWS

CARDIOLOGY 3rd EDITION

D. J. Julian

*Baillière Tindall
London (1978)*

347 pages

How nice to meet an old friend again! A flatmate and companion during long hours of pre-finals swotting, and a comfort during nights on coronary care when one felt very lonely and inadequate.

Dr Julian's book always produced the goods. He never failed to give clear, accurate guidance. With the years the book has filled out a little, in order to cover advances made in coronary artery surgery and echocardiography and give more detailed sections on cardiac catheterization and angiocardiography.

The book contains up-to-date information on the physiology of the heart, full descriptions of cardiac dysrhythmias, their ECG appearance and treatment. The chapter on coronary disease has been extended but unfortunately there is only a rather short section on the treatment of myocardial infarction in the home. Other cardiac disorders are comprehensively covered. Information is easily found with the help of an excellent index and the book is beautifully illustrated by line drawings. These are particularly effective in demonstrating heart murmurs.

Anyone who finds the concept of left axis deviation or bundle branch block difficult to grasp will find the explanation of ECG interpretation and the

electrical activity within the heart easily read and understood.

The author's intention of producing a concise text remains admirably fulfilled. It probably serves best the needs of junior hospital doctors, but I would recommend it to any doctor with an interest in cardiology or responsibility for medical inpatient care. It will always have a place on my bookshelf.

JOHN DRUMMOND

STUDENTS IN NEED: ESSAYS IN MEMORY OF NICOLAS MALLESON

*Society for Research into Higher
Education Ltd
Guildford (1978)*

230 pages

This is one of those awkward books. Well produced, interesting, informative, and excellently referenced, it nevertheless cannot be recommended as an essential purchase for the average general practitioner. Nicolas Malleson, who died in 1976, had a life-long interest in higher education and student health, and this collection of essays covers the whole range of his interests. Most of the articles were specially written and present a first-rate review of current views and knowledge about student health. Other chapters are reprints of Malleson's articles and relevant pieces by other authors.

Doctors regularly involved in student health should certainly read, and indeed own, this book. Others will find the chapters on the medical needs of the young and mobile, in particular those in inner cities, interesting and provocative. Malleson felt that the traditional family doctor was inappropriate for many young people who needed access to specialized centres run more on the lines of hospital casualty departments. Whether we agree or not, the argument makes stimulating reading, as does the remarkable article written by Malleson in 1944, in which he looked at his future in medical practice. Whether his dreams for a National Health Service came true is left for the reader to decide.

DAVID HASLAM

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAW (1978) 2nd EDITION

Angela Roddey Holder

*John Wiley and Sons
Chichester (1978)*

562 pages. Price £17.60

Any discussion of current American medical practice is incomplete without reference to the complex issues inherent in the so-called malpractice crisis. It is worth remembering that malpractice is not a new phenomenon; the earliest reported malpractice jury trial took