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Acknowledgements

I am indebted to my ex-partners without whose co-operation this study would not have been possible; also to the medical laboratory scientific officers at Portsmouth Regional Public Health Laboratory, particularly Mr P. Pead for electron microscopy. I am also grateful to Dr M. Skirrow for biotyping the campylobacters, and finally for the advice and encouragement of the late Dr D. J. H. Payne.

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GENERAL PRACTICE LITERATURE

BOOK REVIEWS

MILESTONES. THE DIARY OF A TRAINEE GP

Peter Stott

Pan Books, London (1983)

236 pages. Price £1.75 (paperback)

I enjoyed *Milestones*. It is easy to read and anyone working in general practice can immediately identify with Dr Stott, his problems and his patients.

Milestones is encouraging because it demonstrates some of the sophistication which is usual in the trainees of the 1980s and which would have been unusual even 10 years ago.

There is much to learn from this book and I am recommending it to undergraduates, although all of us could read it with pleasure and profit.

JAMES S. MCCORMICK

DOCTOR/PATIENT COMMUNICATION

David Pendleton, John Hasler (Editors)

Academic Press, London

293 pages. Price £16.80

This is a collection of essays by some of the outstanding current figures in general practice and related behavioural science. The editors are well known College figures, and Dr Pendleton's main contribution to the book is an

excellent review of the previous research into the complex area of doctor-patient communication. In line with this chapter, the other contributions are stimulating and well-referenced essays which cover such diverse areas as 'Doctors, patients and their cultures', 'Communication skills' and 'Training in the United Kingdom'.

Part 4 of the five-part book is the largest section with four different essays concerned with medical education and medical practice in relation to doctor-patient communication, and it is perhaps this section which will be of most relevance to trainers and course organizers. However, the book will appeal to all general practitioners who are interested in learning more about the consultation.

E.G.B.

BOOKS RECEIVED

THE AGORAPHOBIC SYNDROME. Behavioural approaches to evaluation and treatment, Geoffrey L. Thorpe and Laurence E. Burns, Wiley, Chichester. 1983. 237 pages. Price £16.00.

NUTRITION IN PREGNANCY. Proceedings of the Tenth Study Group of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, D. M. Campbell and M. D. G. Gillmer (editors), Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London. 1983. 284 pages. Price £7.00 (paperback).

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BID THE SICKNESS CEASE. Disease in the history of Black Africa, Oliver Ransford, John Murray, London. 235 pages. Price £12.50.