pneumonia is said to be 10–30% but in practice it is probably considerably lower than this in most centres in the UK. The comment is also made that the mortality is “over 90% in those who present in respiratory failure”. I rather doubt that this is true and I presume that the authors mean that the mortality is over 90% in those who require assisted ventilation. This chapter discusses the various therapies in considerable detail and is of great practical value. It makes the important point that nebulised pentamidine should probably only be used in patients with mild disease. The authors conclude that the first line treatment for pneumocystis pneumonia is co-trimoxazole or pentamidine, whereas in truth it is likely that co-trimoxazole is superior to pentamidine and indeed the authors present data to support this. A further discrepancy arises over the treatment of *Mycobacterium kansasii* which the authors say responds well to standard chemotherapy. In practice it is usual to treat *kansasii* with a regime that includes ethambutol because the organism is resistant to isoniazid and pyrazinamide. It is, therefore, probably misleading to say that it responds well to standard therapy, which most physicians would regard as being rifampicin, isoniazid and pyrazinamide.

Chapter 5 is a fascinating description of the management of respiratory failure in patients with pneumocystis pneumonia. My only quarrel would be with an early statement “despite . . . diagnostic advances and increased awareness the mortality of pneumocystis pneumonia has not fallen.” The reference that the authors quote in support of that statement is a 1986 paper and as the authors note elsewhere in their book the mortality from pneumocystis has indeed fallen in recent years. Chapter 6 of the book is concerned with the very important issue of the prevention of lung infections in patients with HIV and is a particularly valuable contribution from Dr Hopewell of San Francisco. Dr Hopewell makes the compelling case for knowledge about HIV status and the degree of immunosuppression (particularly the CD4 count) so that patients can be correctly “staged” and offered prophylactic therapy at an appropriate time. The effectiveness of prophylaxis against pneumocystis pneumonia is very impressive, and it is probable that prophylaxis against

tuberculosis and bacterial pneumonias is relevant in some patients. The chapter on anti-retroviral treatment in HIV disease is by Dr Pinching and is an enormously authoritative account of the present situation. It is a pleasure to read a chapter that is so obviously written by an expert in the field.

Overall this volume is concisely written in excellent linguistic style. I think that it will be a useful addition to the bookshelf of all of us caring for patients with HIV infection. This is a rapidly evolving field and I do hope that the excellent editors are given the opportunity of producing a second edition in a few years time.

JOHN MOXHAM

Learning Genito-Urinary Medicine and HIV Disease through MCQ. By P Fisk. (Pp 189; Price £11.50) Chichester, John Wiley and Sons. 1990. ISBN 0 471 92775 9.

This is a useful short text which provides a comprehensive introduction to all aspects of modern day genitourinary medicine. It is aimed at medical students doing their clinical attachments. Different medical schools attach different degrees of importance to GU medicine and some students may feel the subject too small and specialised to be worth purchasing a specific text, although medical school libraries should acquire it. It will, however, appeal to newcomers to the speciality and to General Practitioners looking for brief guidelines to differential diagnosis and management.

The first half of the book is divided into chapters based on common clinical presentations such as genital discharge, ulceration and skin problems. Each section then has relevant MCQs with a topic discussion and the answers. This style appeals by capturing the reader's interest with a challenge followed by an immediate explanation. This avoids the frustration of other similar texts where discussions and answers can be either difficult to locate or simply absent. There is always the problem of the perfect MCQ, particularly in a biological subject, with simple true/false questions and answers. For example in one question about conditions producing genital itch one answer is genital warts. The listed response is a definite “False” but the discussion goes on to say

“usually” not. Another problem with short texts is oversimplification of more controversial topics. Diathermy loop excision (DLE) of the transformation zone is a relatively new technique currently in vogue. It has not been fully evaluated and may be associated with long term complications. The author suggests DLE is the treatment of choice for CIN without differentiating between grades of abnormality. There is no mention of the high frequency of low grade abnormality, usually not requiring treatment, in clinic attenders.

To help the reader select important versus less important information, each topic has “CORE” or “ADDITIONAL” at the foot of the page. In a book of this size subselection is probably unnecessary. Furthermore some of the “ADDITIONAL” topics, such as Behçets disease or lymphadenopathy, may be more relevant to medical students, geared towards examinations, than conventional STD topics.

A third of the book is devoted to HIV/AIDS which reflects the size and significance of the problem. The section provides a balanced overview for the non-specialist and is also a useful introduction for medical students.

All in all this is a well presented “user-friendly” book which can be recommended to a broad range of specialist and non-specialist doctors as well as non-medical staff working in the field. It will appeal to overseas doctors revising for the diploma of GU medicine and, thinking of 1992, to those in other European countries where venereology and dermatology have not been separated.

ANNE EDWARDS

Strong Medicine. Doctors at Home and Abroad. By A C King and A J King. Worthing: Churchman Publishing Limited. (Pp 348; £6.95). 1990.

Strong Medicine is of compelling interest for Old Londoners and those working in sexually transmitted disease. It is entertaining and remarkably frank so that it grips attention. It is the story of the elder two brothers of a family of six children born in Hackney, AC in 1900, AJ in 1902. The first two jointly written chapters tell of their English father building up a modest laundry into a flourishing business. The brothers helped with