

have been out on the streets, young girl pregnant, just at home on welfare, but they showed me that I could be more than that, I could be a lot more than that . . . I see that I can be anything I want to be and still take care of my baby . . .”.

Abi Berger

15 Sandgate Lane, London SW18 3JP, UK

Understanding Lung Sounds

Second edition.—W B Saunders.
Philadelphia: Steven Lehrer. 1993.
Pp 150 + cassette. £29.95.
ISBN 0-721649025.

This second edition is updated to include information about computer-aided analysis of lung sounds. The technique, known as time-expanded wave-form analysis, employs a computer with analogue digital conversion to record lung sounds which can then be replayed at a much slower rate and displayed in graphical form. This allows detailed analysis of the wave form. It is also possible to carry out spectral analysis of the frequencies that make up each lung sound. The basics of this technique are described and some graphical displays are included to illuminate the discussion. However, the account of the methods and applications of computer-assisted analysis of lung sounds is too brief and superficial for the book to be of much interest to a respiratory specialist.

Understanding Lung Sounds is most suitable for medical students. There is a useful introduction to aspects of the physics of sound that are necessary to understand lung sounds, and a good description of normal and abnormal sounds. An innovative feature of the book is the provision of a cassette tape of normal and abnormal lung sounds, which is a useful introduction for the novice. Limitations in reproduction are overcome to some extent by following the author's advice to listen to the tape through a stethoscope held some distance away from the sound-system speakers.

Much of the book is not directly concerned with lung sounds. Sections on anatomy, physical examination, and diagnostic methods in respiratory medicine are useful for students, but are better covered elsewhere. It is difficult to see the relevance of some of the illustrations such as dramatic diagrams of the Heimlich manoeuvre in infants and adults.

The book will be a worthwhile addition to libraries for medical students and junior doctors, but there is not enough here to satisfy the specialist respiratory physician.

R M Rudd

London Chest Hospital, London E2 9JX, UK

Selected Books: Pharmacology

Pharmacologic Analysis of Drug-Receptor Interaction (2nd edn).—Terry Kenakin.
New York: Raven Press. 1993. Pp 495.
\$113.50. ISBN 0-781700655.

Human Psychopharmacology: Measures and Methods (Vol 4).—Edited by I Hindmarsh and P D Stonier. Chichester: John Wiley. 1993. Pp 254. £45.
ISBN 0-471934119.

Liposomes in Drug Delivery.—Edited by G Gregoriadis, A T Florence, H M Patel.
Chur, Switzerland: Harwood Academic. 1993. Pp 256. \$95/£55. ISBN 3-71865265.

ABC of Monitoring Drug Therapy.—J K Aronson, M Hardman, D J M Reynolds.
London: BMJ. 1993. Pp 38. £6.95.
ISBN 0-727907913.

Booksearch

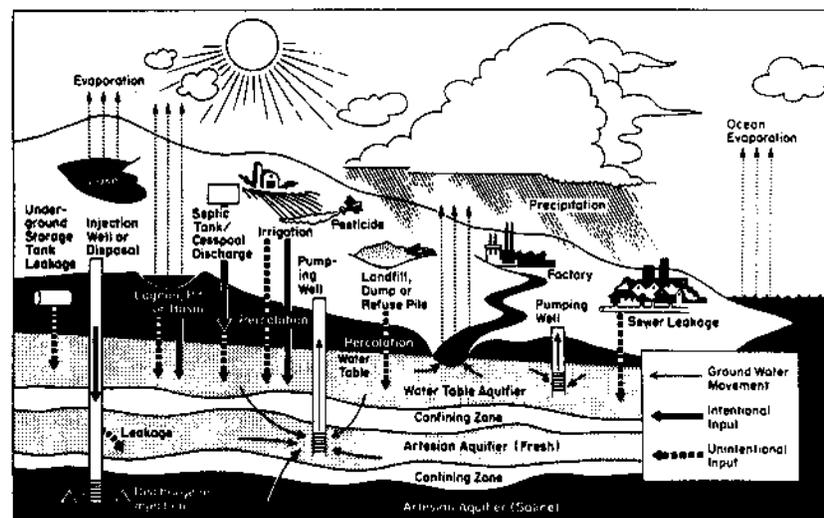
General Psychopathology.—Karl Jaspers. Translated by Hoenig and Hamilton. Manchester University Press or University of Chicago Press. 1968. Please contact Dr Michael Prendergast, Department of Child Psychiatry, The Children's Hospital, Ladywood Middleway, Ladywood, Birmingham BT6 8ET, UK.

Dementia Praecox and Paraphrenia.—Emil Kraepelin. Translated by R Mary Barclay. Livingstone. 1919. Please contact Dr Michael Prendergast at above address.

The Classification of the Endogenous Psychoses (5th edn).—Karl Leonhard. Translated by Ell Roblins. Irvington Publishers (Holstead Press Division of John Wiley & Sons). 1959. Please contact Dr Michael Prendergast at above address.

Readers' requests for books and journals should be addressed to the Editor, *The Lancet*, 42 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3SL, UK. Envelopes should be marked "Booksearch".

Endpiece



Contamination of ground-water system by waste-disposal practices

Groundwater is contained in a geological layer called an aquifer (or in above figure "aquifer") that may be confined by relatively impermeable material or unconfined and, therefore, more susceptible to contamination. Waste-disposal practices can contaminate the ground-water system by many routes as shown in the figure. People can be exposed to polluted groundwater or surface water in several ways, most commonly by use of contaminated water for drinking or cooking, or by ingestion of contaminated fish. Natural sources of hazardous chemical exposure also exist, such as arsenic present in some deep wells. Taken from *Critical Condition: Human Health and the Environment* edited by Eric Chivian, Michael McCally, Howard Hu, Andrew Haines. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press. 1993.

Pp 244. \$15.95. ISBN 0-262531186.)