contains a number of remarks that indicate sound practical experience, and a reassuring pragmatism that will be of considerable benefit to the inexperienced reader. Treatment is clearly related to the patient and the staging of the disease is allowed to play only a secondary part in the decision making. The management sections also contain interesting comments on post-treatment complications and their management, something rarely encountered, but again of enormous use to the less experienced reader.

Inevitably there are weaknesses in the book. The literature quoted has a strong North American bias, at some points the wording is loose, e.g. “intensity of radiation diminishes rapidly with distance” when the same number of words could have clarified the point successfully. There are a number of printing errors that should have been avoided by editing, some of which change the sense of the argument completely. The “decision trees” in the text really contribute nothing; in view of the clarity of the text itself, and the crossing of lines makes them visually confusing.

In spite of these limitations, the strengths of the management sections are such that this should be an important text for anybody embarking on a training in gynaecological malignancies.

R. Hunter

Cancer—The Facts. Sir Ronald Bodley Scott (1979). Oxford Medical Publications. 208 pp. £4.50.

There must be very few people, whatever their professional background, who would not find something to learn in this excellent small book. Although it is aimed at the general reader and makes virtually no assumptions of medical knowledge on the reader’s part, it manages to provide an informed and balanced account, not only of general problems relating to cancer, but also of cancer at most important individual sites.

The book ranges very widely, embracing clinical diagnosis and treatment, carcinogenesis, the general epidemiology of cancer and the problems that are raised by concerted attempts to prevent cancer or diagnose it at an earlier stage. The discussion is securely based on remarkable factual knowledge which is up-to-date throughout.

However, the principal delight of the book for this reader is the English prose style in which it is written. The writing is always lucid and elegant and often strikingly felicitous. It used to be traditional that doctors wrote well; this work provides constant reminders of the golden age of medical writing. The book can be recommended not only to the medically uninformned reader but to most doctors, for there is not only much to learn about cancer in it but a great deal to learn about how to express oneself in the English language.

A. Smith

Problems in Breast Pathology 11. Major Problems in Pathology. J. G. Azzopardi (1979). London: Saunders. 466 pp. £25.00.

In his preface Professor Azzopardi states that his book is essentially concerned with diagnostic problems in breast pathology. Such is the nature of the subject, however, that in elucidating these problems he also illuminates the whole spectrum of mammary disease, ranging across techniques of pathological examination, normal structure, terminology and classification, and various disease entities (both common and rare) in an erudite manner. The literature of such difficult topics as the relationship of cystic disease to carcinoma is thoroughly and lucidly reviewed, with the clear-cut conclusions of the author being stated in a refreshingly forthright manner. Of particular practical value will be chapters 9 and 10 on the overdiagnosis and underdiagnosis of malignancy, which, when read in conjunction with chapter 7 on epitheliosis and in situ carcinoma, provide a superb practical guide to the avoidance of dangerous errors in that recurrent challenge to the surgical pathologist: the difficult breast biopsy. The main body of the book is augmented by chapters on ultrastructure by Ahmed and mammography by Millis. It is beautifully produced, and lavishly illustrated with an abundance of high-quality black-and-white photomicrographs which will be of great value to the histopathologist.

In short, this is an excellent book which combines the qualities of a practical bench book with a scholarly examination of the subject matter. No histopathology department could invest £25 more wisely than in the purchase of this book.

M. Harris