with various word processing programs, WordPerfect 5.1 (or later) is especially compatible as special features have been created for the spellchecker in this instance (checking for capitalized drug generic name and any lower case trade name, for example). The "chaining dictionary" also activated with WordPerfect 5.1 (or later) enables several dictionaries to be linked and provides for a more customized spellchecker. Finally, irregular terms or phrases, such as those that may include single letters, words with numbers or irregular case, or hyphenated or required capitalization, may be ignored by setting the preference features accordingly.

Mosby's Medical Encyclopedia for Health Professionals

Credits: Darlene Como, executive editor; Rakha Anad-Singh, project manager; Laurie Sparks, senior developmental editor; Barbara Carroll, assistant editor. System requirements: (For Windows 3.1 or later): 386/25 MHz processor or higher, CD-ROM drive, 256 color monitor, SVGA sound card, 4 MB RAM, 4 MB hard disk space. Mosby Yearbook, Inc, 11830 Westline Industrial Dr, Attn: Order Services, St Louis, MO 63146; (800) 633-6699; \$59.95.

In the current breakneck pace of computer software development, many production companies seem complacent with developing reputations of quantity over quality. This trend has become especially apparent in the arena of educational titles, where often the user gains far more from learning how to get a program up and running properly than from the content of the software itself. Not so with the new *Mosby's Medical Encyclopedia for Health Professionals*.

The ability to move with ease throughout the various areas of the program is central to its effectiveness as a reference and learning tool. The program includes both alphabetical tabs and a comprehensive search function, which allows for easy access to any of the topics. Cut and paste tools, electronic book marks for insertion, and print information are available with a click of the mouse. This accessibility

makes gathering information easy and fun.

Mosby's Medical Encyclopedia for Health Professionals is specifically formulated for use by persons in various healthcare fields. Yet it has the benefit of defining medical terms in plain English, as well as including correct audio pronunciations of the medical terms. The straightforward design entails detailed illustrations, which also serve as a useful reference resource. The extensive appendices feature laboratory values, drug interactions, diagnosis-related groups, and assessment guides.

However, a few aspects of the program—such as the inclusion of more audio pronunciations—could be improved. All things considered, however, this program (particularly the anatomy atlas) serves as an excellent reference resource for the healthcare student and the seasoned professional, while also stimulating those young minds of persons who may be interested in a career in the healthcare field.

Microscopic Anatomy

Programmers: Thomas Hollinger, PhD, content author; Richard Rathe, MD, and Tim Garren, BS, software design; Office of Medical Information, University of Florida, image production; Charles Poulton and Gene Cornwall, technical assistants; Tim Garren, Patrick Joiner, and Walt Szalva, CD-ROM development; Victor Pesqueria and Jonathan Seymour, MD, production management; Bill Bradley, editorial assistance; Diana Pray, copy editing; Jill Dygert, CD packaging and design. System requirements: (For Windows 3.1 or later): 386 processor or higher, 16-bit color, 8 MB RAM, 9 MB hard disk space. (For Macintosh 7.1 or later): 68030 processor or higher, 16-bit color, 8 MB RAM, no hard disk space necessary. Gold Standard Multimedia, Inc, 235 S Main St, Suite 206, Gainesville, FL 32601-6585; (800) 375-0943;

The latest in the educational multimedia series from Gold Standard Multimedia takes the study of anatomy literally under the microscope. Patterned after the histology curriculum of the University of Florida School of Medicine, *Microscopic Anatomy* is much more than a mere collection of photomicrographs. Rather, it combines the many facets of the study of microscopic anato-

my into a single, more digestible study aid.

For many students and medical professionals alike, the study of micropathology is a difficult one. Perhaps even more daunting than the study of micropathology is the tedious nature of histologic examination of the slides with long hours spent confined to the microscopy laboratory. Although it seems doubtful that any tool could make mastering the subject easy, Microscopic Anatomy does take strides in that direction. For example, it begins with an in-depth tutorial covering the use of the common light microscope. This tutorial includes a 5minute movie (which can be viewed in whole or part) that describes in an elementary fashion everything from light physics to the care and use of the microscope. This information serves as a sound fundamental basis on which to build knowledge gained from the tissue samples contained within the program.

Most of the elements are categorized by different tissue types, with 20 different categories from which to choose. More than 1200 digitized images of fixed and stained tissue preparations are available. For example, by selecting from the "Bone and Connective Tissue" or "Urinary System" menu, users can select from various slides. From this menu users can select cell type, species, or method of preparation. A hematoxylin and eosin preparation of human cardiac muscle, for example, is easily contrasted with a toludine blue preparation of the muscularis layer of a small intestine section from a rat. The slides themselves may then be viewed at two different zoom levels or may be expanded to full screen. When viewed at a reduced size, the slide is accompanied by an outline-type descriptor, as well as a more detailed text box describing what can-and should—be seen in the particular image. An occasional electron photomicrograph is provided, albeit in only a few of the available categories, and then only as a single image.

True to its education orientation, Microscopic Anatomy includes exten-

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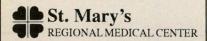
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sive quiz and review features, including more than 1700 preformatted review questions pertinent to the study of histology. Detailed attention has also been given to ease of navigation throughout the program. A navigational tool bar is present during the viewing of the slides; this tool bar enables users to choose from other available features, such a notepad function, flashcards, or quiz. A handy index allows for increased maneuverability while looking up a particular preparation or tissue type by name. No matter which direction the investigation takes, returning to the previous place in the slide collection is routinely easy using a deftly placed backtrack command.

Users may also investigate the actual method of tissue and slide preparation, another educational benefit of the program. Each of the common staining techniques is represented along with a thorough description of its characteristics and usefulness. This analysis of preparation techniques adds greatly to the fundamental groundwork onto which ensuing knowledge can be built.

Microscopic Anatomy frees users from the confining quarters of the laboratory in their pursuit of study of the microscope. Little seems to be left out of this program, except, perhaps, the lack of mobility necessary to move the slides about. An up-and-down, side-to-side capability would make this program even more enjoyable and also more closely resemble actual evaluation of microscopic tissue samples. The program could also be enhanced with the addition of more zoom levels. An option that would allow selecting from magnifications of 10X, 40X, and oil immersion found on most light microscopes might be in order.

But fear not because of these wishful thoughts. *Microscopic Anatomy* remains a superb learning tool for a subject that many see as mundane and tiresome. I would venture that many a student would realize quite an academic benefit from the use of this program.

Christopher Blair, DO Arlington, Tex

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Office Practice of Neurology

Edited by Martin A. Samuels and Steven Feske. Pp 1280, with Illus. Churchill Livingstone, 650 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10011, 1996;\$199.

When I first heard the title Office Practice of Neurology, I anticipated a slim, at most moderately sized, easily placed into a lab coat pocket textbook. To my surprise, I found Office Practice of Neurology to be a true textbook. Except for its detracting ample size and weight, the book features a superb content. It functions best as a reference for the clinician who is investigating a patient's usual—or unusual—neurologic signs and symptoms.

The authors have geared the text to patients with neurologic problems clinicians are likely to encounter during their outpatient work. Basic and clinical research are not emphasized, but diagnosis and treatment are more thoroughly reviewed. In this respect, this textbook earns high marks for its practicality.

This multiauthored work features 230 different contributors, most of whom are neurologists. Numerous other specialties are represented as well: radiology, infectious disease, anesthesia, psychiatry, and ophthalmology. Even with such a large, varied authorship, however, the book has a consistent tone to it.

Each of the nine multiple sections contained in the book is broken down into specific chapters. Six pages of color plates can be found in Part 2, Section 1. An up-to-date reading list ends each chapter. Unfortunately, specific references are not included within the body of the chapter. Therefore, correlation with the suggested reading list is all but impossible. In fact, the reading list in some chapters may not be complete, leaving no reference source for the reader to pursue.

The mechanics aside, the textbook begins with a review of the principles of ambulatory neurology and the approach to clinical problems. Emphasis is placed on more common symptoms and findings. Of special interest is the chapter on facial palsy. It includes the most recent

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