Volume 9 of the Annual Advances in Nephrology again does not disappoint us. It contains four sections: (1) clinical pathophysiologic changes on chronic dialysis; (2) immuno-manipulation techniques and their possible application in nephrology; (3) renal transplantation (two articles dealing with immunology), and (4) current issues in nephrology (divided into five articles). There are several chapters which are remarkable, but it is difficult to choose between them because of their excellence. However, I think I learned most from the chapter on glomerulonephritides and hypocomplementemia; pathophysiology and pathogenic implications by Leibowitch, Leveille, Halwachs and Wattei. There is also a stimulating article by Van Ypersele de Strihou on endogenous acid production on the role of the digestive tract in endogenous acid production and the regulation of acid-base equilibrium. Others may find that they learn more from a masterly summary by David Ken on the ‘Clinical and pathophysiologic changes in patients on chronic dialysis and the central nervous system’.

A striking feature of this volume is that the English is so excellent, and it has none of the awkwardnesses which foreign publications usually have. I, therefore, recommend it to every nephrologist.

G. M. Berlyne

This is a well-produced book in hardback, covering a conference on diabetic renal and eye disease held at Downstate Medical Center in 1979. The chapters by ophthalmologists dealing with technical matters relevant to eye surgery are important in that they summarize the state of the art in preservation of vision in the diabetic, and the pathophysiology of diabetic retinopathy, but the remainder of the book is more interesting to the nephrologist, being devoted to multi-author contributions of a nephrological nature, including statistical evaluations of survival on dialysis and transplantation. There is, however, no major contribution of the effect of euglycemic control in diabetes on the program of diabetic nephropathy, and in the next edition, after the next congress on this subject, we look forward to reading about the benefits conferred by careful control of blood sugar in preventing end-stage renal disease occurring in the diabetic. An unusual feature is the presence of stimulating and provoking editorial annotations at the beginning of each chapter.

Summary: interesting contributions; much excellent material in tabular and graph form for teaching purposes. Obligatory reading for all nephrologists.

G.M. Berlyne
Announcement

The Wellcome Museum of the History of Medicine has been permanently loaned to the Science Museum to form the basis of the national medical historical collection. It is currently trying to increase its archives of significant recent medical technology. The Museum is anxious to acquire important objects relating to the history of renal dialysis. Many early objects in this field are neglected and eventually lost for want of an appropriate permanent home. The Wellcome Museum of the History of Medicine at the Science Museum can offer professional cataloguing, storage and display facilities.

Anyone possessing important artefacts which they would like deposited in the national collection should contact Dr. C. Lawrence, Historian, Wellcome Museum of the History of Medicine, Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD (England).