

work a better appearance and the wide dissemination which it very much deserves.

MICHAEL ROBERTSON
freelance editor and indexer

Units, symbols, and abbreviations: a guide for medical and scientific editors and authors. 5th edn. Editor, D. N. Baron. London: Royal Society of Medicine Press, 1994. 64 pp. 21 cm. ISBN 0-905958-78-0 (pbk): £10.00.

This useful book about the International System of Units (SI) sets out international and national standard practice and otherwise attempts to codify majority views. Medical and biological science and practice are continually changing, leading to new symbols, abbreviations, and conventions coming into use. Supplies of the 4th edition (1988) were becoming exhausted,

so it was decided to revise it.

Section I, an explanation of metrication and SI units, has needed changes neither in its listing nor in the explanatory notes—with the exception of the note on BS 5775 (Quantities, units and symbols), for which corresponding ISO standards have been updated to those published in 1993. The table giving examples of conversion factors from other units to SI units is representative rather than complete; those of us involved in the literature of biomedicine might want to supplement this with the *New England Journal of Medicine's* 1992 *SI Unit Conversion Guide*, which is aiming to convert the recalcitrant Americans to use of SI. It is available in England from NEJM Books, Saxon Way, Melbourn, Royston SG8 6NJ.

In section II—a useful, cross-disciplinary list of abbreviations, from

'about (used numerically)' to 'zoological nomenclature'—the 5th edition has added yocto-, yotta-, zepto-, and zetta-: all higher powers of 10. The reference list has been brought up to date.

Section III is substantially unchanged, though the sequential-numerical system has been renamed the citation-sequence system, and the name-and-year system designated by its better-known name, the Harvard system. The section, in six pages, clarifies these systems for authors typing up their papers for submission to journals. The final section, BSI symbols for proof corrections, has changed in appearance only because of slight changes in typesetting. A new standard is said to be in preparation.

MARGARET COOTER
British Medical Journal

Publications received and publications noted

The American Heritage concise dictionary. 3rd edn. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1994. viii, 952 pp. 24 cm. Illus. ISBN 0-395-69187-7 (cased): \$10.95.

Authors in the electronic age. The Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society. London: Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society, 1994. 9 pp. 30 cm. Pbk. (Available from ALGS, 33-34 Alfred Place, London WC1E 7DP.)

College and undergraduate libraries. Editor Alice Harrison Bahr. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press. Two issues per year. ISSN 1069-1316. Annual subscription: US individual \$28.00, institutions and libraries \$38.00; elsewhere price varies. First issue published 1994.

Directory of Booksellers Association members 1994/95. London: Booksellers Association, 1994. xvi, 438 pp. 23 cm. Indexes. ISBN 0-907972-86-1; ISSN 0068-1666 (pbk): £23.00.

The right word at the right time: a guide to the English language and how to use it. London: Reader's Digest Assoc.: 1985 (rep. with amendments, 1994). 688 pp. 24 cm. ISBN 0-276-42144-2 (cased): £21.95.

Serial publications: guidelines for good practice in publishing printed journals and other serial publications. Prepared by a Joint Working Group of Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, Association of Subscription Agents, Serial Publishers Executive of the Publishers Association, United Kingdom Serials Group. Witney,

Oxon: United Kingdom Serials Group, 1994. 48 pp. 30 cm. Illus. index. ISBN 0-906148-10-3 (pbk): £16.00. (Available from United Kingdom Serials Group, 114 Woodstock Road, Witney, Oxon OX8 6DY.)

William S. Heckscher. Art and literature: studies in relationship. 2nd edn, rev. and enlarged, edited by Egon Verheyen. Baden-Baden: Verlag Valentin Koerner, 1994. 651 pp. 24 cm. Illus. ISBN 3-87320-415-0; ISSN 0343-2009 (pbk): DM180.00. (Saecula spiritalia, Herausgegeben von Dieter Wuttke, vol. 17.) Three studies are added to the previous edition (see *The Indexer* 15 (1) April 1986, 55-6): Art and literature (1954); De betekenissen van G. I. Hoogewerff (1963); and Melancholia (1541): an essay in the rhetoric of description by Joachim Camerarius (1978).