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When Sir Reginald Murley became president of the Royal College of Surgeons in July 1977 he was described in the *Daily Telegraph* as a "redoubtable standard bearer" and as "one of the dwindling number of old style 'surgical characters'". In *Surgical Roots & Branches* he gives a lively account of the development of this character.

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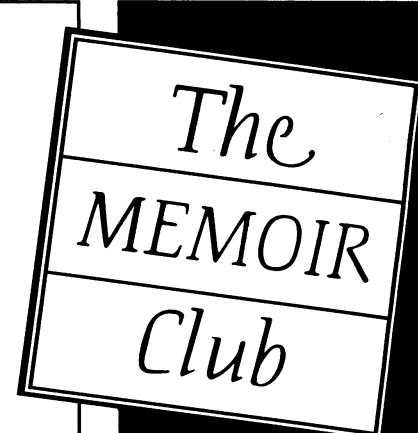
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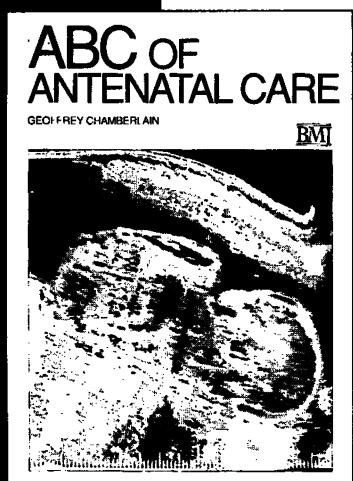
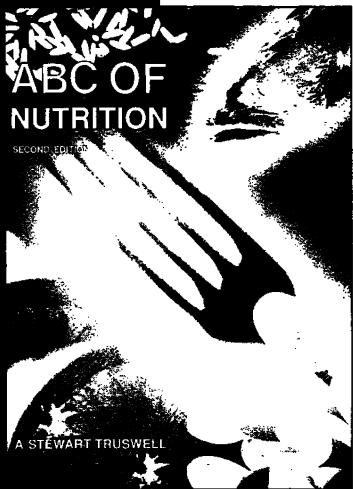
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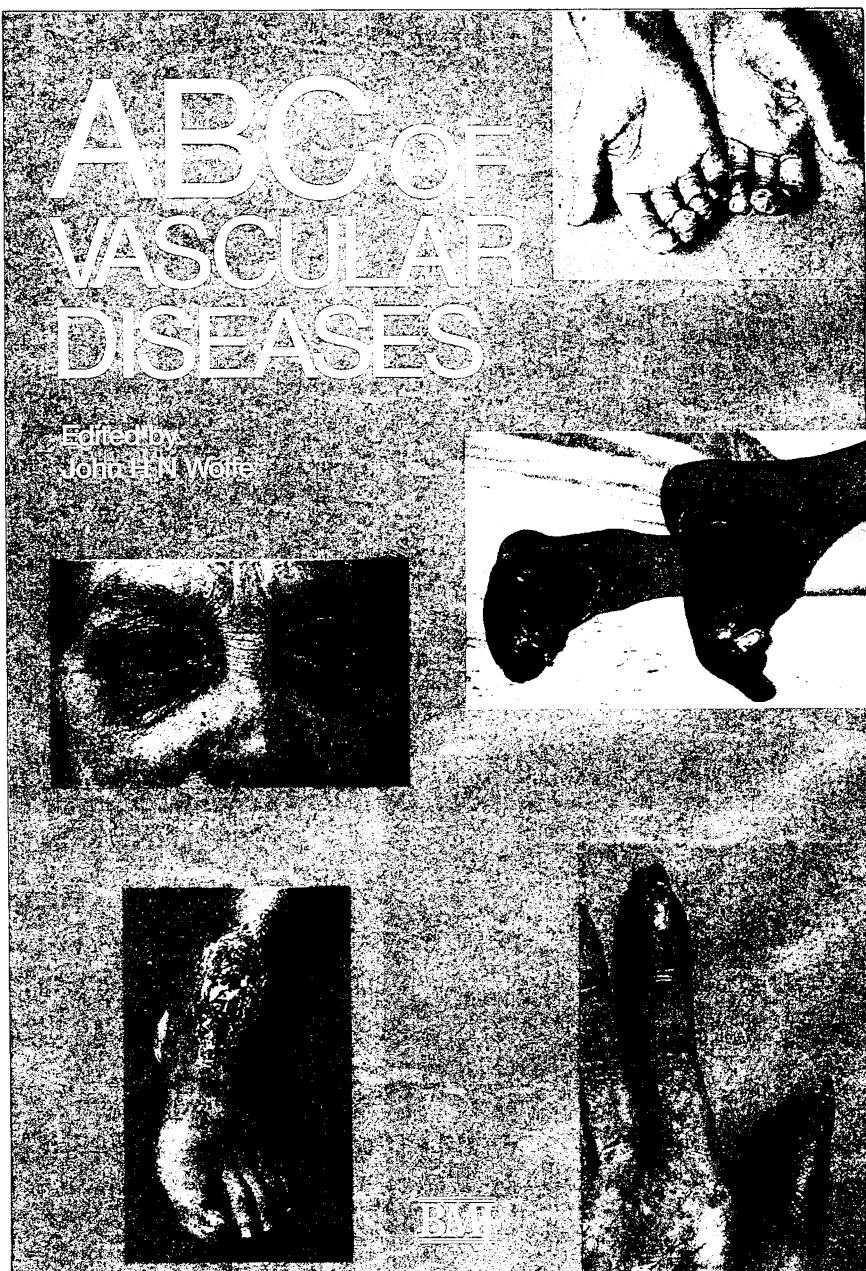
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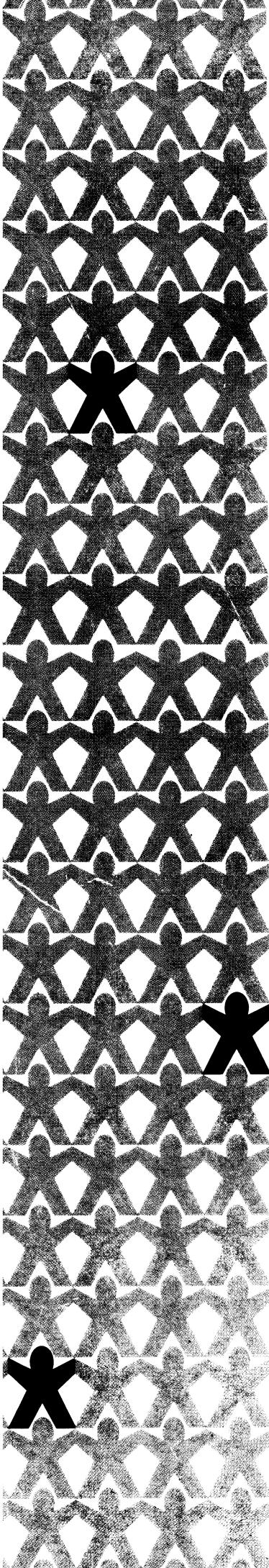
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Journal of Medical Screening is a new quarterly journal to be launched in January 1994 by the BMJ Publishing Group to cover all aspects of medical screening and advance the science of the discipline. The journal aims to bring together specialist groups conducting screening research and establish a liaison with health authorities and policy developers. The philosophy of the journal is that screening should be about the prevention of disability and disease, not simply the early detection of disease as an end in itself.

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What do we really know about editorial peer review in scientific publication?

Something, but not enough.

- We know that peer review is widely used, but how widely?
- We know that peer review suffers from bias and conflicts of interest, but what biases and conflicts really matter? And how do we get rid of them?
- We fear that peer review suppresses innovation, but to what extent?
- We know that peer review has existed for years without scientific proof of its worth, but will it hold up under the same rigor and scrutiny we demand of science itself?

To answer many of these questions, editors, scientists, and scholars will gather to present and discuss research findings at the Second International Congress on Peer Review in Biomedical Publication, September 9-11, 1993, at the Fairmont Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

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- The mechanisms of peer review and editorial decision making in different journals, including blind review
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- Conflicts of interests
- Fraud and scientific misconduct
- Peer review of grant proposals

The subject of the Congress is biomedical publication, but scholars in other disciplines are urged to participate, so that we may examine editorial peer review in the context of the overall scientific enterprise.

For more information, contact

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