also appears in similar formats in a number of other sections. Similar criticisms apply to peripheral vascular disease where there is substantial overlap between chapters 17 and 20. It would be timely to have included a chapter on diabetes and cardiovascular disease as inflammatory conditions and the role of inflammatory cytokines. The relationship between diabetes and cerebrovascular disease is relatively poorly covered and the section on microvascular disease, whilst well written, appears at times to be superfluous in the context of the thrust of this volume.

However, these criticisms are quite minor and the breadth of this work, with its comprehensive referencing and attention to detail is to be recommended. Individuals with an interest in this area, whether from a clinical, scientific or combined background should add this text to their bookshelves.

P. Grant
Leeds, U.K.

Current Status of Carotid Bifurcation Angioplasty and Stenting
F. J. Veith and M. Amor, Eds.
291 pages, price $150.

This book, which is almost pocket sized, consists of 291 pages and 17 chapters. Throughout the book there are an adequate number of illustrations and tables, which make individual chapters easy to both read and understand. Each chapter is clearly indicated and there is a comprehensive list of references at the end of each. As indicated by the title, the book sets out to address the current status of angioplasty and stenting at the carotid bifurcation, and is centred around an invited group of 17 experts selected by the organisers of an international meeting in New York. This group consisted of representatives from Radiology, Cardiology and Surgery (but not Neurology), and were from the U.S.A. and Europe. Each participant was circulated with a series of questions, which were then debated at an oral session and areas of consensus, or not, were arrived at. The results of this process are presented in this volume.

The majority of the book is devoted to chapters from 14 of the 17 consensus conference participants. Each was asked by the editors to summarise their personal experience, current opinions and future predictions regarding carotid artery bifurcation stenting. Unfortunately this wide remit has resulted in substantial repetition of the published data relating to both carotid endarterectomy and endovascular approaches. Many of the chapters begin with an introduction that is similar to the introduction from the chapter before. It is, however, interesting to read the different ways in which the same data (NASCET and ECST) can be interpreted and presented!

The procedure of carotid artery stenting is remarkably standard throughout the world, and this again is rather repetitious as each author describes what is essentially the same process. This makes it difficult to identify individual tips and tricks from each of the experts. The remainder of each chapter reflects either the experience of each centre or focuses on the areas of their research interest.

It is unfortunate that there was limited input from two of the pioneers of carotid angioplasty and stenting, Matthias (Dortmund) and Theron (Caen), who participated in the postal questionnaire, but were unable to attend the conference or contribute documentation. The absence of the Principle Investigator for CAVATAS (Carotid And Verbal Transluminal Angioplasty Study), Brown (London), was also noticeable, as was the lack of neurological input.

The consensus conference documentation is useful and each chapter alone makes interesting reading, however the volume structure does not allow this to act as a reference text, as there are a number of chapters with very similar messages which makes the information fragmented. It is interesting to compare this with the recent book edited by Naylor and Mackey (Carotid Artery Surgery – a problem-based approach, WB Saunders), which in sharp contrast has clearly defined chapters addressing each of the issues in turn.

The readership for this book is likely to be Interventional Radiologists and Cardiologists who are considering carotid stenting as a procedure, and the consensus reached is timely. However the price tag of $150.00 may put some people off, but it is intended that a broad overview will be submitted to a major medical journal in the near future.

T. Cleveland
Sheffield, U.K.

A. H. Davies, Ed.
Health Press.
Price £15.

These two books are the second and third in a series of “fast facts” books covering vascular surgical topics.
Each book consists of around a dozen chapters covering a wide range of issues in vascular practice. The books do not attempt to be comprehensive in any way, either by covering the entirety of vascular practice or by exhaustively discussing all issues relating to the topic of the chapter. Indeed most of the chapters have formed the subject of major text books in their own right. Each chapter gives an overview of a surgical topic which has been the subject of controversy and describes the current understanding of the issues with key supporting references. The authors are recognised experts in their field and the information presented is, on the whole, well balanced and by necessity concise. Being a multi-author text the styles of writing are heterogeneous but as the chapters are all unrelated this does not detract from the value of each discussion. There is nothing new contained within these books but the information presented is an easily digestible format and, because of the short time from commissioning to publishing, is as up to date as possible in book format. A nice touch is that all the chapters contain a table with three headings: “What’s in?”, “What’s out?” and “What’s controversial?” and this gives the reader an immediate handle on the contents of the more detailed discussion in the main body of the text. The information contained within some chapters is not detailed enough to be taken in isolation and they must be read with a background of a reasonable understanding of the topics covered. Some understanding of the difference in clinical practice between the U.K., Europe and the U.S.A. is also needed, e.g. in the chapter on carotid angioplasty, from an American author. I would not like to say that all the information or opinion in these books should be taken as gospel, but as a stimulant to further discussion and to emphasise some of the controversial issues which we all face in our day to day practices these are useful texts and I would recommend them to all vascular surgeons and senior trainees.

J. Rochester
Sheffield, U.K.
doi:10.1053/ejvs.2001.1542,
available online at http://www.idealibrary.com on

Dialysis Access: Current Practice
J. A. Akoh and N. S. Hakim, Eds.
400 pages; price £50.

Vascular access for dialysis is becoming a major issue in healthcare practice. Therefore information on the current practice of vascular access and its implications for the vascular surgeon seems worthwhile. In the past decades few books on access have appeared. This latest example, edited by Akoh and Hakim, covers various aspects of access that are relevant to nephrologists and dialysis nurses as well as surgeons dealing with this field of surgery. The history of dialysis access, modality selection and methods for access monitoring are well described, as well as the value of preoperative ultrasonic imaging for defining vessel anatomy. The type of arteriovenous fistulas, complications and interventional radiological and surgical revisions are described in the specific chapters. A brief report on peritoneal dialysis access is also included. The reader will enjoy the nicely written review on the development of vascular access from the Scribner shunt in 1960, the Brescia/Cimino AVF in 1966, to the application of different types of graft material and central vein catheters for AV access. The selection of different modalities for the treatment of end-stage renal failure in various countries gives a good insight into the important issue of treatment selection. Quality improvement and the access clinic, including surveillance, are highlighted because of the publication of the DOQI guidelines some years ago. Preoperative vessel assessment by duplex scanning in difficult patients is nicely outlined as well as indications and protocols for the technique. There is some overlap within the chapters concerning the description of the creation of radiocephalic AVFs. On the other hand, the surgical technique and outcome of alternative native AVFs like elbow and transposed basilic vein arteriovenous fistulas are only briefly described. An extensive review on the type and outcome of graft material is presented including the materials that have been abandoned for some years or that are implanted for vascular access in a minority of patients. A wide variety of complications of vascular access may occur and the type, incidence and surgical and radiological treatment modalities are well outlined in the book. Nursing care of dialysis access, central vein catheters and the technique of peritoneal catheter insertion and complications of these catheters are included in chapters at the end of the book. This might suggest less importance for the reader, but the contrary is true. In summary, this book is readable and seems valuable for everyone interested in dialysis access. However, it lacks a good overview on indications for selection of access type and interventional treatment of complicated access. Also, the limited number of illustrations and tables makes interpretation of the surgical techniques for vascular and peritoneal access difficult.

J. H. M. Tordoir
Maastricht, The Netherlands
doi:10.1053/ejvs.2001.1536,
available online at http://www.idealibrary.com on