

INTRODUCTION

Systems of Life is an authoritative, carefully researched and beautifully drawn series which has been running in *Nursing Times* since 1975. It is painstakingly put together by a highly experienced team: desk editor Jean Cullinan, illustrator Peter Gardiner and writer Anne Roberts.

What readers seem to value most about it are the attractiveness and clarity of the drawings and the easy-to-follow text. It is a good example of what *Nursing Times* tries to do every week for its readers – present complex professional ideas and issues in a no-nonsense and accessible form.

Systems of Life certainly gathers new fans with each year that goes by. Students find it invaluable when revising; tutors and ward managers alike use it to compile effective learning aids.

Readers whose knowledge of anatomy and physiology has grown a little rusty find it a helpful tool, as does any professional who wants to learn or keep up to date.

Whether you are a regular reader or one who is discovering Systems of Life for the first time, I hope you will find this collection interesting, stimulating and useful.

John Gilbert
Editor, *Nursing Times*