INTRODUCTION

Systems of Life has been running for almost 20 years and it continues to be a firm favourite with *Nursing Times*' readers. The collected volumes, of which this is the third, are also proving to be enormously popular.

The success of the feature depends, we believe, on two factors. First, nurses, students, tutors and other health professionals need regular and easy access to sound, reliable updates on anatomy and physiology. Second, the clear, attractive illustrations and highly readable text of Systems of Life make that updating a pleasure rather than a chore.

The series is put together by a team of three: writer, Anne Roberts; illustrator, Peter Gardiner and desk editor, Jean Cullinan. Between them, they bring to the task a wealth of experience and an assured touch. I hope you will find their latest offering both useful and enjoyable.

John Gilbert
Editor, *Nursing Times*