



Current Pediatric Diagnosis and Treatment (4th Edition). C. Henry Kempe, Henry K. Silver, and Donough O'Brien. Lange Medical Publications, Los Altos, California, 1976, 1,053 pp., \$15.00.

This is another excellent reference book published by Lange. The authors have attempted to present a concise description of the more practical and common problems in pediatrics without the exclusion of those critical but less common ones. They have succeeded in doing that. Former editions of this work were published in 1970, 1972, and 1974. This is not only the most complete but the most up-to-date of these editions. Of special note is the excellent chapter on growth and development which has essentially all of the graphs and tables necessary to differentiate the normal from abnormal. The chapter on ambulatory pediatrics is very practical and should be useful to every family physician. A number of forms and flow sheets are provided; these may be reproduced without permission of the authors which is certainly a welcome feature.

For reference purposes, chapters are presented by disease in a concise, easily understandable fashion. Of extremely practical use to the busy family practitioner are the chapters on drug therapy, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, and interpretation of biochemical values. Illustrations are sparse but useful where presented.

This book is very well done and I recommend it highly for family physicians.

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Child Abuse and Neglect: The Family and the Community. Ray E. Helfer and C. Henry Kempe. Ballinger Publishing Company, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1976, 760 pp., \$20.00.

The expanding focus of Dr. Kempe's work in the field of protective services for children can be appreciated from the changing titles of his publications: *The Battered Child* (1968), *Helping the Battered Child and His Family* (1972), and the present volume with its subtitle emphasis on *The Family and The Community*. The Preface by Senator Walter Mondale testifies to the relevance of child abuse and neglect at the level of national health policy

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while the Introduction by Drs. Helfer and Kempe emphasizes the importance of the subject to the health-care professional.

The goal which the authors have set forth is "to help the thousands of individuals now working in the field of child abuse and neglect to implement effective, efficient, and coordinated programs of family assessment, treatment, and learning. . . ." I believe the volume should be of great value in this effort. It is directed at all health-care professionals who become involved with abused and neglected children and has multidisciplinary authorship (this is a supposition since the authors have not been identified by background). A team approach is, in the reviewer's opinion, appropriately stressed.

The book is divided into six sections: Dysfunction in Family Interaction; Assessing Family Pathology; Family Oriented Therapy; The Community; the Family and the Law; Early Recognition and Prevention of Potential Problems with Family Interaction. As demonstrated in the section titles, the importance of the family is stressed in the dynamics leading to abuse and neglect and in therapeutic and preventive strategies. I found the discussion of predictors of abusive family situations and their potential prevention to be an extremely valuable contribution.

Although the book suffers somewhat from the multiple contributor format, the introductions preceding each subject by Drs. Helfer and Kempe served to tie the whole together very well. The early chapters present a wealth of information that serves as background for understanding the problem, and the volume also serves to present various models for intervention.

This book represents a rare achievement: it is an important work for both those with a specialist's interest in child abuse and neglect and also for those with primary responsibility for the care of families.

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Behavioral Treatment of Sexual Problems: Brief Therapy. Jack S. Annon. Harper and Row, Publishers, Hagerstown, Maryland, 1976, 166 pp., \$11.95.

Dr. Annon is a clinical psychologist who has considerable experience working with medical colleagues. The forward and statement of endorsement are by a professor of obstetrics-gynecology. The subject matter is certainly relevant to the content of family medicine. An extensive review of the literature of the behavioral view of sexuality would be helpful to anyone with a special interest in sexual disorders. However, the average practicing physician would learn little from this review and would most likely not make the effort to read the original papers.

Annon's model for four levels of therapy is called P-LI-SS-IT. (P-Permission; LI-Limited Information; SS-Specific Suggestions; and IT-Intensive Therapy). This is presented clearly but certainly is not unique. This process is well known to experienced physicians. At the very point in each chapter that a physician needs help with content material, the reader is referred to other references. In order to provide limited information, the physician must have a thorough knowledge of human sexuality. In order for the physician to be effective in this therapeutic scheme, it would be necessary for him to read a number of other suggested volumes. The same problem exists with the chapter on specific suggestions. The few paragraphs that deal with specific sexual dysfunctions are too superficial to be helpful. Again the reader is referred to other references. The book is predominantly process with little content.

The book ends by mentioning another text for intensive therapy, with no discussion of this form of therapy. This volume may be appropriate for a beginning student of any of the helping professions but is too grossly superficial for experienced clinicians. Its major contribution is that of a bibliography or guide to further reading. The most helpful part of the text is Appendix E which is an

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annotated bibliography of suggested readings for patients. The entire volume ignores the importance of the human relationships in sexual behavior.

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Differential Diagnosis in Dermatology.
G. W. Korting and R. Denk, as translated by W. Curth and H. O. Curth. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1976, 767 pp., \$85.00.

When I first heard, as a medical student, the statement "the skin is a window to the body," it seemed a dermatologist's delusion of grandeur. However, this text demonstrates the truth of that statement. Superb color photographs are found on nearly every page, demonstrating the dermatological manifestations of systemic disease, as well as those of primary dermatological conditions. The book is organized by cutaneous manifestations and symptoms and has an excellent index, which should assist the clinician in separating "individual diseases which resemble each other." The text is quite readable, with concise, informative sections on each syndrome. The excellent translation from the original German is above criticism.

One minor drawback is that no information on treatment is presented and one must use a standard text in conjunction with this volume. However, dermatological disorders constitute a significant portion of family practice and every family physician and family practice resident would do well to consider including this text in their library.

*George Hess, MD
Carson City, Nevada*

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