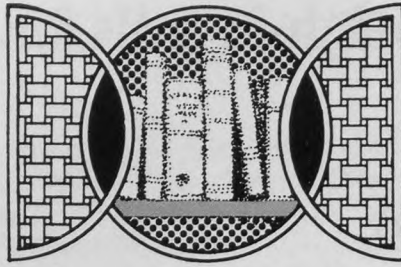


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## Book Reviews

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**Management of Medical Problems in Surgical Patients.** Mark E. Molitch. F. A. Davis Co, Philadelphia, 1982, 795 pp, \$30.00.

This is a solid reference text that I would recommend to every primary care physician who is involved with preparing medical patients for surgery, evaluating patients for surgery or co-managing surgical patients. I suspect that includes the vast majority of family physicians.

I applaud the general premise of the text: a compendium of medical problems viewed uniquely from the surgical perspective. As such, it presents information heretofore found in a few places scattered in the medical literature.

The volume is strong in several ways. Foremost is its unique approach. Second, its thorough index puts everything at the reader's fingertips. Third, each chapter is followed by a lengthy bibliography that nicely supports the practical text. Fourth, despite the need to employ different authors for different topics, the chapters are consistent, organized, and generally quite readable. Fifth, the discussions of medical problems are thorough, practically oriented, and nondogmatic, freely acknowledging controversy and alternate approaches. Finally, the volume is quite com-

plete, addressing many medical problems.

This is a long overdue, excellent text that I heartily recommend to the family physician.

James B. Tucker, MD  
Syracuse, NY

**Clinical Cardiology (3rd Edition).** Maurice Sokolow, Malcolm McIlroy. Lange Medical Publications, Los Altos, California, 1981, 763 pp, \$21.50 (paper).

The third edition of *Clinical Cardiology* includes revised chapters on cardiac physiology, noninvasive investigations, coronary disease, and congenital heart disease.

The authors have made an attempt to integrate new data from the literature with their experience as clinicians and academicians. The chapters are well referenced, and the larger chapters have references under subheadings.

The material is relevant to family practice, and the authors have written their book in an outline style that lends easy readability and organization of thoughts. The book has excellent tables, well illustrated and referenced to current literature. At the beginning of most of the chapters, there is a concise review of the pertinent basic physiology.

The book is divided essentially

into five parts. The first four chapters deal with anatomy and physiology of the circulatory system, history taking, physical examination, and clinical physiology.

The next three chapters deal with special investigations, noninvasive and invasive, and therapeutic procedures.

Chapters 8 through 15 address specific problems in cardiology such as coronary artery disease, hypertension, cardiac failure, congenital heart disease, valvular disease, conduction defects, and arrhythmias.

Chapters 16 through 21 deal with infectious endocarditis, myocardial disease, pericarditis, pulmonary heart disease, diseases of the arteries, and a miscellaneous chapter on other forms of heart disease such as cardiac tumors, hypotension, and neurocirculatory asthenia.

The last two chapters review heart disease in pregnancy and the surgical patient.

I would not consider this a beginning cardiology text and believe it would be of greatest value to the family practice resident and the practicing physician who have a general knowledge of cardiology. The authors accomplished their goal of providing an update in the field of cardiology well-referenced to the recent literature.

Lawrence Perry, MD  
Kansas City, Kansas

**Athletic Injuries to the Head, Neck, and Face.** Joseph S. Torg (ed). Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1980, 300 pp, \$32.50 (\$39.00 Canada).

Meeting the medical needs of injured athletes is the responsibility of many family physicians. Athletic injuries to the face, neck, and head offer a special challenge to the

family physician because of the potential for serious sequelae. The responsibilities are enormous. For example, one must diagnose the effects of the traumatic event. One must determine appropriateness and timing for a contestant to return to his or her activity after receiving a concussion. Finally, to avoid irreparable damage associated with uncontrolled transport of the patient, one must assure the stabilization of a possible cervical fracture.

The purpose of *Athletic Injuries* is to provide principles of treatment and methods of prevention for those physicians offering on-the-scene coverage for athletic activities. The text is adequate for those practitioners needing principles. It is not adequate for the generalist desiring information on screening for potential athletic unprepared-

ness. It offers general information regarding management of injuries to the head, neck, and face. Discussion of the seriously injured athlete who would be referred to neurosurgical and orthopedic specialties is handled in an equally general and seemingly simplistic fashion.

The chapters of this "definitive" text vary drastically as to the authors' style and clarity. Often, chapters dealing with the most-technical issues are stated most clearly. Other chapters lack organization, provide monotonous text, and fail to provide summaries. However, some chapters are well organized and follow a cohesive outline. Almost all chapters provide a healthy sample of references.

Predictably, there is an excessive overlap of much of the information presented in this text. The text is limited to a small albeit vital

part of the anatomy, and various disciplines are brought to bear on each of these vital areas. This reviewer found the resulting redundancy tedious and unnecessary.

The illustrations, particularly the radiographs, are of high quality. This book offers limited benefits to family physicians. The team physician certainly requires the skills and knowledge to deal with face, head, and neck injuries. However, he or she might be better served in attending a good workshop than struggling with this text.

T. Rich McNabb, MD  
University of Washington  
Seattle

**Update I: Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine.** Kurt J. Isselbacher, Raymond D. Adams, Eugene



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Braunwald, Joseph B. Martin, Robert G. Petersdorf, and Jean D. Wilson (eds). McGraw-Hill Book Co, New York, 1981, 263 pp, \$32.00.

Because of the rapidly expanding volume of new medical information, which is difficult to update in editions appearing every four years, the editors of *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine* plan to produce yearly updates between the major editions. This is the first such effort. The objectives of the update are to focus on and present in-depth discussions of several new clinical advances that could not be included in the regular edition. It is expected that these new clinical areas would then be covered in the next regular edition, but in less detail.

Sixteen chapters are included in *Update I*. Among them are "Biliary

Obstruction: Current Approaches to Diagnosis and Treatment"; "Glycosylated Hemoglobins: Their Role in the Control and Complications of Diabetes"; "Mitral Valve Prolapse Syndrome"; "Prostaglandins"; "Disorders of Sleep"; "Colonic Cancer"; and "Cephalosporins."

The format and organization of the information in *Update I* is the same as that found in regular editions. This material is clearly presented and readable. Subtitles help to organize the material and to guide the reader. The authors met their objectives of providing detailed, informative discussions of the newer aspects of the clinical topics chosen for inclusion in this edition.

This reviewer is very enthusiastic about *Update I*. The information is more thoroughly presented, and in some respects the material in

the individual chapters seems to be better integrated and more interestingly written than that found in the regular editions. An added attraction is the 108-question examination in the back of the book, which can be used to gain 25 hours of continuing medical education credit through the American Medical Association. A \$25 additional charge is made for scoring the examination.

*Update I* is of definite value to the practicing physician, resident, and student. It will provide up-to-date information in one source on a number of relevant topics. *Update I* could be useful on its own without the regular edition. If future updates continue in the same vein, I would expect them to become very popular.

Jim L. Wilson, MD  
Mobile, Alabama

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