Book Reviews

Approaches to Teaching Primary Health Care. *Harry J. Knopke, Nancy L. Diekelmann (eds). C.V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1981, 322 pp., price unavailable.*

Finally, here is a compendium of the educational technology that is most useful to family medicine educators in academic settings. In spite of its clear efforts to aim at the wider audience of educators in "primary care," including predoctoral and graduate "educational programs in medicine, nursing, and many other health care professions," this book retains its cogency for family medicine. In fact, one third of its 27 authors are currently affiliated with departments of family medicine. Only one chapter has little relevance to family medicine, though several focus upon relationships with community and rural teaching sites. Family physicians based in community hospitals will find less relevance in this book, unless they have a strong university affiliation and responsibility for teaching medical students.

Sections of the book cover planning, development, management, and evaluation of educational programs. The authors are clearly both well trained and experienced in the field of medical education for primary care. Good examples are used, and "pearls" based upon successes and failures abound. Humanistic teaching and the biopsychosocial approach are basic philosophies. Chapters on modular instruction, evaluation by simulation, and systematic planning are especially useful.

The approach is assertive in that the institution's necessary major commitment to primary care education is repeatedly stressed. Good arguments are made that a half-hearted attempt to assuage legislators, alumni, or the public dooms the process from the start. Faculty, good teaching sites, appropriate patient care models, community interrelationships, and political clout require core commitment by the institution.

Though this information provides slow reading and is occasionally too detailed or too superficial, it is an excellent book for its organization, comprehensiveness, and cogency. Full-time junior faculty members, fellows, and those involved in faculty development will appreciate having this up-to-date material and references in one place on their library shelf.

Richard M. Baker, MD
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Drug Therapy in Obstetrics and Gynecology. *William F. Rayburn, Frederick P. Zuspan (eds). Appleton-Century-Crofts, E. Norwalk, Connecticut, 1982, 384 pp., $38.50.*

This first edition is divided into three sections: obstetrics, gynecology, and drugs for general use. The authors' goal is to provide information about specific drugs in daily clinical practice. Each chapter begins by introducing a specific patient disorder or patient concern, then reviews the appropriate physiology, followed by a discussion of the indications and uses of various pharmaceutical agents. The manner in which these issues are integrated provides the reader with extensive factual data plus guidance in clinical decision making. The combined sections on obstetrics and gynecology make up 80 percent of the text. Oncologic chemotherapy is the only chapter that does

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not address a common problem in family practice. Even the chapters on inhibition of premature labor and care of toxemia focus on the needs of the generalist. Medical students, family practice residents, and practicing family physicians all will find these sections to be of great value.

The last section of the book, "Drugs for General Use," is inferior compared with the first two sections. The chapter on antibiotic therapy is poorly organized and provides inadequate attention to specific patient problems, such as pelvic inflammatory disease, amnionitis, and puerperal fever. The other chapters in the section deal with anticoagulant agents and psychoactive drugs. Neither of these areas provides adequate information on clinical problems relevant to obstetrics and gynecology.

With the exception of the third section, this is an easy-to-read book, having such clarity of organization that it is a handy reference source as well as a basic text. Tables, graphs, and charts have been effectively used to summarize the text and provide rapid integration of multiple subject areas in each chapter. The manner in which each drug is used, its dosage, frequency, and mode of administration are well presented both in the text and in companion tables.

In spite of the glaring weaknesses of one section, *Drug Therapy in Obstetrics and Gynecology* is an excellent text that provides the family physician with a synthesis of material not readily available in standard obstetrics and gynecology texts or periodical journals.

Charles E. Payton, MD
University of Utah School of Medicine
Salt Lake City, Utah

Current Literature Review in Internal Medicine. *Paul Friedman (ed). Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, 1982, 157 pp., $12.95 (paper).*

The major objective of this book is to challenge the reader's command of the internal medicine literature of 1980. To that end, the editor presents questions based on articles in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *The American Journal of Medicine*, and *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The editor clearly states that the intent is not to critique the original articles or to review the entire literature relevant to specific topics; rather, the intent is to focus on the major points made in the articles.

The book contains 300 true-or-false and multiple-choice questions, the bulk of which deal with problems in infectious disease, endocrinology, immunology, cardiology, oncology, and pharmacology. Questions about problems in hematology, gastroenterology, medical obstetrics, neurology, metabolic disease, and dermatology are included in limited numbers. Although the multiple-choice questions often have more than one correct answer, the editor has fortunately avoided complex responses.

The answers are in a separate section at the back of the book. Most of the five- to ten-line answers specifically address each of the responses presented in the question, which enhances the educational value of the book. The full reference is printed after each answer to facilitate review of the original article if desired.

I found the book stimulating, for it clearly challenged my command of the recent internal medicine literature. Even though the book was published in 1982, it is unfortunate that 1981 literature was not in-

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cluded as well. By reviewing only 1980 articles, the editor has unavoidably limited the useful lifetime of the book. Although articles in the three journals reviewed for this book often cover esoteric topics with little relevance for family practice, the editor carefully selected articles with direct clinical applications. Nevertheless, there are some questions that are interesting and stimulating but not particularly useful in day-to-day family practice.

The medical student, resident, or practicing physician who is preparing for board examinations should find this book useful. Others who are interested in testing their command of the internal medicine literature will find the book challenging. On the other hand, the book is not useful as a reference, since there is no index to facilitate review of a particular topic or access to a relevant article.

John Rogers, MD, MPH
Piscataway, New Jersey

Synopsis of Gynecology (10th edition). *Daniel Winston Beacham, Woodard Davis Beacham. C.V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1982, 331 pp., $21.95 (paper).*

This tenth edition of *Synopsis of Gynecology*, which was begun in a publication in 1932, is an update of information in concepts of disorders of the female reproductive system. The aim of the first edition was to provide a concise and up-to-date general knowledge of principles and features necessary to the intelligent practice of gynecology by the nonspecialist and as a source of review and concise summary for gynecologists wishing to supplement larger textbooks. Its organization, starting with anatomy and physiology and ending with medical-legal aspects of gynecology, considers and makes current principles and practices in management in which there has been considerable change through the years. Infectious agents, their methods of diagnosis, and tests are all included in the present edition. Selected references following each chapter have been updated to include more recent information in detail and allow for the review of any subject in depth, if that is required. This synopsis, as the title suggests, is readable, is readily understandable, and provides for a rapid review of any specific area of gynecology. For family physicians, it provides a concise review, but further details of management will be needed from other sources. The review allows for a useful updating for diagnosis and management. The sections on anatomy, physiology, and basic information are excellent and should provide a medical student with an overview of the field.

The illustrations throughout the text are well done; most are line drawings and some are photographs (there are no color photographs), which serve to supplement the material in the text.

For the family physician or family practice resident who desires a quick reference or review for evaluation of a current case or problem, the latest edition of *Synopsis of Gynecology* should serve extremely well. Its place on the bookshelf of the outpatient clinic or emergency room to provide a ready reference and to answer clinical questions, as well as to serve as a rapid review of concepts, is amply justified.

Richard C. Barnett, MD
Community Hospital of Sonoma County
Santa Rosa, California