

Book Reviews

Sexual Development and Disorders in Childhood and Adolescence. Raymond M. Russo (ed). Medical Examination Publishing Company, New Hyde Park, New York, 1983, 237 pp., price not available.

Traditionally, to obtain a comprehensive view of childhood sexuality, one would find it necessary to consult such various resources as pediatric gynecology books and endocrinology references, as well as psychiatry texts for the behavioral aspects of the subject. In this book the editor attempted to bring together these traditionally separated areas in one work. Family physicians are continually faced with decisions regarding the normality of the growth and development of children and adolescents. This book serves as a ready reference for evaluating sexual development of children. In addition to giving factual information, it provides helpful hints regarding the physician's sensitivity to the emotional development of the child. This sensitivity is essential for the family physician's approach to the developing child. The section on the first pelvic examination is well done; there is a stepwise outline of suggestions for conducting this examination. Another section by the same author on teenage pregnancy is worthy of commendation. Although the author uses this forum to philosophize, he also gives specific suggestions for instructing the patient on the uses of various contraceptives. This information would make the family physician a better patient educator.

Because of multiple authors, the book varies in readability and is somewhat redundant in various sections. The book is organized to describe normal sexual development in the first part and abnormal

sexuality in the second part. An interesting addition to this book is the discussion by a lawyer of the legal issues of child abuse, abortion, contraception, and informed consent. There is no question of the family physician's need for a ready reference to this information.

Although the illustrations were adequate, I did not find them to be of great benefit. For example, sketches of 15 sexually transmitted diseases are drawn on one page.

This book would be a valuable addition to the library of the family practice resident, medical student, or allied health professional who is attempting to develop a sensitive approach to growing children and adolescents. It would also be valuable for established family physicians to review their own techniques in relation to the suggestions made by the authors. The book could be used as well as a rapid reference for an overview to sexual development and disorders in childhood and adolescence.

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Fundamentals of Dermatology. Theodor Nasemann, Wolfhard Sauerbrey, and Walter H.C. Burgdorf. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1983, 284 pp., \$21.95 (paper).

"Why another dermatology text?" is the question posed in the preface to this review of dermatology. The question was answered originally in 1973 when the textbook was first published in Germany by Drs. Nasemann and Sauerbrey under the title of *Hautkrankheiten und venerische Infektionen*. The authors promised that the book would be "concise and profusely il-

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Family Kaleidoscope

Salvador Minuchin

"*Family Kaleidoscope* is unusual and experimental in the way it presents ideas, and in the ideas themselves. Issues of divorce, child abuse, and family violence are presented from the point of view of one of the most experienced family therapists of our time."

-Jay Haley, Co-director,
Family Therapy Institute
of Washington, D.C.

Epilepsy and the Family

Richard Lechtenberg, M.D.

Epilepsy and the Family is the first book written not only for people who suffer from epilepsy but for all those close to them. This practical book explains in detail how families can solve such problems as the identification of seizures, how treatment is decided upon, and when treatment might be stopped. 9 line illus. \$16.50

The Process of Neurologic Care in Medical Practice

Thomas H. Glick, M.D.

In this excellent text, Dr. Glick shows how the skills of the primary-care physician can be applied to the special problems of neurologic history taking and physical examination. The book emphasizes time-saving ways to focus the exam and avoid diagnostic error, and describes clear procedures for cases that the generalist can handle comfortably. 48 tables \$25.00

The Natural History of Alcoholism

Causes, Patterns, and Paths to Recovery

George E. Vaillant, M.D.

Vaillant's monumental study offers new and authoritative answers to the fundamental questions about alcoholism. "A thoroughly superior book and a powerful contribution to the literature on alcoholism."


-Frank A. Seixas,
former Medical Director,
National Council
of Alcoholism

10 line illus., 68 tables \$25.00

Harvard University Press

79 Garden Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

References: 1. Kales J et al: *Clin Pharmacol Ther* 12:691-697, Jul-Aug 1971. 2. Kales A et al: *Clin Pharmacol Ther* 18:356-363, Sep 1975. 3. Kales A et al: *Clin Pharmacol Ther* 19:576-583, May 1976. 4. Kales A et al: *Clin Pharmacol Ther* 32:781-788, Dec 1982. 5. Frost JD Jr, DeLucchi MR: *J Am Geriatr Soc* 27:541-546, Dec 1979. 6. Kales A, Kales JD: *J Clin Pharmacol* 3:140-150, Apr 1983. 7. Greenblatt DJ, Allen MD, Shader RI: *Clin Pharmacol Ther* 21:355-361, Mar 1977. 8. Zimmerman AM: *Curr Ther Res* 13:18-22, Jan 1971. 9. Amrein R et al: *Drugs Exp Clin Res* 9(1):85-99, 1983. 10. Monti JM: *Methods Find Exp Clin Pharmacol* 3:303-326, May 1981. 11. Greenblatt DJ et al: *Sleep* 5(Suppl 1):S18-S27, 1982. 12. Kales A et al: *Pharmacology* 26:121-137, 1983.

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illustrated to best teach the fundamentals of dermatology." The German text has produced four editions and has been interpreted and revised in the English language by Dr. Walter H.C. Burgdorf, associate professor in the Department of Dermatology at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Burgdorf states that it is his intention to give both students and "nondermatologic" physicians access to this volume.

In my opinion the authors have achieved their educative goal. I plan to use this text as a review of the fundamentals of dermatology as well as an extremely handy reference on the skin disorders seen in family practice. The text is written with clarity and without condescension; the black and white photographs, which make up the majority of illustrations in the book, are superb; and the various diagrams used by the authors are helpful in a summative way.

Not only is the book generally well done, but there are some interesting techniques used by the authors to assist the learner. For one, there are multiple cross-references to other chapters, so that if a reader is interested in learning more about a particular subject, that information is readily available by seeking out the chapter reference. Further, the authors have appended a glossary of alphabetically arranged terms that are keyed to the text by the appearance of those terms in boldface type. Here again, if the reader is unfamiliar with a term, he has merely to refer to the glossary to find its definition. Another interesting innovation is the authors' use of lists set in different typefaces throughout the text when they wish to emphasize certain characteristics of a

particular skin problem. The formula and color plates at the end of the text will prove extremely helpful to the learner and the practicing physician.

There are some things about which one could quibble. In my opinion, the author spends far too much time on smallpox and devotes only a brief paragraph to genital herpes simplex. Again, the chapter devoted to tropical dermatology is extremely foreshortened and summarized in chart form with minimal use of illustrations. It might have been better to concentrate on a few of the problems seen frequently in the United States rather than try to "cover the waterfront." I also had to spend a good deal of time trying to find the authors' discussion of one of the most common "lumps" seen in family practice, ie, the sebaceous cyst. In a textbook for nondermatologic physicians I would have expected more than two brief paragraphs on that topic, and I would have expected a detailed discussion of methods of excision, which, unfortunately, is lacking. These are minor points, however, and do not detract from the overall excellence of the text in meeting its stated purposes.

Fundamentals of Dermatology should be on the bookshelf of every family practice center and is ideally suited as a textbook for a family practice resident on a dermatology rotation. I can strongly recommend it to practicing physicians as a review of the subject and as a reference text for skin problems. For the medical student entering a primary care specialty, it will serve admirably as a source of fundamental knowledge of skin problems.

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