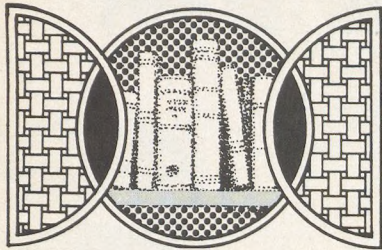


# Book Reviews



**Outline of Fractures (8th Edition).**  
*J. Crawford Adams. Churchill-Livingstone, New York, 1983, 324 pp., \$12.50 (paper).*

*Outline of Fractures* is a small volume that addresses its topic in a typically English style. The text is succinct and clearly written. Strong emphasis is placed on clinical observations, and recent technological innovations receive less emphasis than they might in a book written in the United States. There are many useful and clear x-ray film reproductions and diagrams.

The book will be useful to practicing family physicians and others who are responsible for the recognition of bone injuries and perhaps for the management of low-risk fractures. It may also be useful for the practitioner who does not treat fractures but who occasionally needs to talk with patients about injuries they have sustained. The sections on principles of fracture management and cast techniques are brief and would meet the educational needs of medical students and family practice residents only if augmented by additional teaching materials.

The book's low cost makes it an attractive addition to the libraries of those who need a source of information on fractures, but who might be reluctant to invest in one of the larger textbooks on the subject. It is, in the best sense of the term, a bargain.

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**Synopsis of Diseases of the Chest.**  
*J.A. Peter Pare, Robert G. Fraser. W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1983, 896 pp., \$39.50 (paper).*

The authors' initial contribution to this subject consisted of a 2,300-page reference textbook in four volumes. Because of the reluctance of most readers to undertake reading such a large book, the authors produced this version—a summary of the previous four volumes. Their aim was to provide a textbook on chest disease for the resident in respiratory medicine or radiology, or “any physician or surgeon seeking a concise review of the subject.”

The book is well written—concise, yet readable. Many topics are of particular interest to the family physician, such as the use of new (and old) diagnostic techniques in chest disease. The authors also include some excellent tables of differential diagnosis and diagnostic trees. It is unlikely, however, that many family physicians would find the book useful enough to buy it for their personal libraries. Most of the content is too specialized, more relevant to a consultant in respiratory diseases. A family physician would occasionally use this book as a reference text if it were available in a local library.

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**Living With Dying, the Management of Terminal Disease.**  
*Dame Cicely Saunders, Mary Baines. Oxford University Press, New York, 1983, 74 pp., \$9.95 (paper).*

This brief (66-page) monograph presents a useful, concise overview

of the clinical management of patients and families of patients with terminal disease. Drawn from the authors' extensive experience in a research and teaching hospice, this book can be a great help to all health professionals working with dying patients. It proposes a more analytical and positive therapeutic approach to the needs of the terminally ill, basing that approach on objective data. The authors' primary management goal is “helping patients live to their full potential in physical ease and activity with the assurance of personal relationships until they die.”

The book encompasses a full range of tasks undertaken by those dealing with dying patients. It also offers practical advice, supporting data, and references. Important clinical issues such as deciding when to discontinue aggressive efforts to cure the patient, informing patients and their families about terminal disease, and interpreting and managing the grieving process are discussed in a straightforward, readable style. A substantial portion of the book deals with terminal pain, its nature, incidence, causes, pathophysiology, prevention, and treatment. The pharmacology and rationale for using a variety of analgesics is presented along with specific advice on how and when to use them. A brief discussion of the management of other symptoms of terminal illness is also included. The final chapter presents a useful perspective on the mental, social, and spiritual components of “total pain.”

This book can be a valuable and inexpensive addition to the libraries of medical students, family practice residents, and practicing and academic family physicians.

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