

Guide to Dental Problems for Physicians and Surgeons. *Seth R. Thaller (ed), William W. Montgomery. Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, 1988, 370 pp., \$68.95. ISBN 0-683-08151-9.*

The demand for this reference text is clear—patients often consult their family physician for complaints that may be related to a primary dental problem. As most physicians have received little, if any, formal training in the field of dental pathology, this book can indeed bolster the clinician's diagnostic and treatment capability.

The authors' goal of developing a "concise and clinically relevant reference book describing unfamiliar and possibly confusing dentistry related problems frequently encountered by the primary care physician . . ." most accurately describes their outcome. Beyond this goal, they also pursue several topics to depths probably more appreciated by the subspecialist than the generalist. The text proves to be extremely well organized and clearly written, and a wide variety of figures, diagrams, and radiographs are used to illustrate basic as well as technical points.

The obvious strength to the *Journal's* readership is the outstanding sections on basic dental anatomy and development, which introduce the highly pertinent chapters covering common office-encountered dental problems such as oral infections, dental pain, dental procedures and their complications, and fractures of the teeth. Additional chapters on facial bone fractures and facial pain problems, including the temporomandibular joint syndrome, combined with a special focus on soft tissue injuries to the face and their repair, assist the likelihood that this volume will be a popular library addition.

Since this book was coordinated by a plastic surgeon and an otolaryngologist, there are several chapters that probably explore topics to a depth that would not be so relevant to the average physician's practice as they would be to those of the authors. The specific areas include dental problems secondary to prosthetic replacement, complications secondary to removable and fixed prosthetics, and orthog-

nathic surgery, among others. The authors at times emphasize nondental areas, such as the pathophysiology of the coagulation mechanism—areas that might have been better abbreviated.

The guide would ultimately function more as a descriptive and academic reference than it would as a therapeutic handbook. Hence, one would expect its greatest service to come from the shelves of a student or resident library or the physician's permanent reference collection.

*James Bergman, MD
Redmond, Washington*

Primary Medical Care of Children and Adolescents. *William Feldman, Walter Rosser, Patrick McGrath. Oxford University Press, New York, 1987, 266 pp., \$29.95. ISBN 0-19-504298-0.*

A 3-year-old will not sleep through the night. A mother wonders whether her child's stomach pains are caused by food allergies. A 2-month-old has a fever. Family physicians face these types of problems daily. Most of us were trained, however, to care for children on the wards of teaching hospitals and from textbooks that emphasized the esoteric. Solutions to more common pediatric problems are often learned serendipitously, over years of practice or parenthood.

Fortunately, ambulatory medicine is becoming a more important part of the curriculum in many training programs. There is therefore a great need for textbooks that address the everyday problems seen by a primary care physician. This book is a marvelous introduction to the primary care of children and should be a godsend for medical students and family practice residents.

Discussions of common pediatric problems and issues are easy to locate under such headings as "Aches and Pains," "Problems of Sleeping" and "Shortness and Thinness." Many behavioral and psychosocial problems are appropriately included.

Each chapter is brief and effectively organized. The prevalence of the problem and its possible causes are

discussed first. Next is "narrowing down," followed by diagnosis and management. An interesting and worthwhile feature is the evaluation of the strength of evidence supporting each management strategy. ("No clear evidence," "suggestive evidence," and "firm evidence.")

Although this text will best serve physicians in training, more experienced practitioners should also find this book to be helpful. Much of the material may be familiar to seasoned clinicians, but they should find it valuable to compare their own approach to common childhood problems with the authors' recommendations.

*Diane Madlon-Kay, MD
St. Paul-Ramsey Medical Center
St. Paul, Minnesota*

The Principles and Practice of Medicine (22nd Edition). *A. McGehee Harvey, Richard J. Johns, Victor A. McKusick, Albert H. Owens, Jr., Richard S. Ross (eds). Appleton & Lange, Norwalk, Connecticut, 1988, 1277 pp., \$49.95. ISBN 0-8385-7944-2.*

This 22nd edition of Harvey's *Principles and Practice of Medicine* continues in the tradition of a uniquely oriented textbook of medicine established by Sir William Osler in 1892. This tradition preserves the concept that in medical education, emphasis is placed most appropriately on the patient. This textbook continues the orientation of prior editions toward clinical problems rather than that of other encyclopedic medical texts that emphasize disease entities. Consequently, it is specifically designed to complement rather than compete with other medical texts.

The unique viewpoint of this publication is consistent with the patient-oriented, holistic framework of patient care espoused by the specialty of family practice. Consequently, it is a particularly useful reference for family physicians and physicians in training.

Representing the coherent viewpoint of a single institution, Johns Hopkins University School of Medi-

cine, this textbook nevertheless highlights the fresh approaches and advances in the principles of medical care that are constantly in flux. It represents a significant revision of the 21st edition, including 59 new contributors and a major expansion of pertinent sections such as that of immunodeficiency states.

As befits the quality of Appleton publications, it is an attractively bound book, sturdy in its construction. It makes liberal use of tables of differential diagnosis, outlines of therapy, a structured approach to patient management, and capsulized case presentations to illustrate critical points. The bibliography is current and the index is remarkably complete, in view of the scope of topics covered by the textbook.

Given its overall quality and certainly modest price, this book belongs on the shelf of every practicing physician and physician in training.

Perry A. Pugno, MD, MPH
Family Care Center
Redding, California

Handbook of Medical Treatment (18th Edition). William Skach, Charles L. Daley, Christopher E. Forsmark. Jones Medical Publications, Greenbrae, California, 1988, 545 pp., (price not available). ISBN 0-930019-14-0.

This is a very readable, basic guide for the house officer or medical student written by residents and fellows. It is a 5½" × 7¼" paperback medical text that can be easily carried by the busy house officer for ready access to medical information. It provides basic symptoms and physical findings of various disease entities, as well as being a treatment guide. It has tables filled with differential diagnoses, symptoms, and signs. It is an abridged textbook of medicine made practical for the busy house officer.

The text provides a practical discussion of basic physiology where indicated. Paragraphs are presented in outline form with bold print serving as an attention device. The writers were aware that readers would want quick information that would allow

for immediate assessment and management of various clinical problems. The book is filled with relevant tables and illustrations, from coagulation cascades to poison control centers throughout the United States. As is expected with any medical text, some treatment modalities have changed by the time they reach print.

This is a very useful handbook clearly written by house officers for house officers. A great deal of thought went into its development and planning. Residents in family practice will find it to be very useful in day-to-day management issues.

William L. Boddie, MD
Scenic General Hospital
Modesto, California

Psychiatry Diagnosis and Therapy 1988/89. Joseph A. Flaherty, Robert A. Channon, John M. Davis (eds). Appleton & Lange, Norwalk, Connecticut, 1989, 416 pp., \$19.95 (spiral bound). ISBN 0-8385-1277-1.

Psychiatry Diagnosis and Therapy is a clinical manual that provides practical guidelines for the diagnosis and management of psychiatric and behavioral disorders. Chapters by various contributors are written in an outline format that assists for quick referencing but does not contribute to a good literary style. Excellent references are offered at the end of each chapter.

The manual includes extensive use of *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual* (edition 3, revised) criteria to assist in differential diagnoses. There is also a limited discussion of etiology and epidemiology of the various conditions. Critical therapy and guidelines on psychopharmacology and psychosocial therapy for each disorder are incorporated. Not only are the major psychiatric disorders covered, but also there are chapters on topics of special relevance to family physicians, such as eating disorders, sexual dysfunction, psychoactive substance abuse, sleep disorders, special conditions of women, geriatrics psychiatry, the AIDS patient, and legal issues. Drug-induced psychiatric disorders are covered in detail, including overdose,

side effects, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, and movement disorders.

The book is relevant to the field of family practice. I feel that the book would assist the medical student, family practice resident, and family physician in the care of all psychiatric disorders.

Harry E. Mayhew, MD
Medical College of Ohio
Toledo, Ohio

Women and Exercise: Physiology and Sports Medicine. Mona Shargold, Gabe Mirkin (eds). F.A. Davis Company, Philadelphia, 1988, 279 pp., \$35.00. ISBN 0-8036-7816-9.

Until recently, one aspect of sexism very damaging to women has been their exclusion from full participation in fitness education and athletics. *Women and Exercise: Physiology and Sports Medicine* is a timely volume summarizing, "for scientists and clinicians," what is known in a variety of areas about women exercising. Thirty percent of the contributing authors are women: female as well as male pronouns are used, and studies of female subjects (when available) are cited.

The book has an easy-to-read, double-column format. Chapters by the editors are generally better written and more clinically relevant than those by other contributors, with the exception of Letha Hunter-Griffin's chapter on orthopedic injuries. Part 1 is a 100-page review of basic exercise physiology, mainly emphasizing, except in the chapter on osteoporosis, that there is little difference between men's and women's physiologic responses to exercise. I found Mirkin's practical suggestions about nutrition, with their scientific rationale, most helpful, but the rest rather dry, basic, and repetitive.

Part 2 is the section of the book most specific to women: chapters on exercise during each phase of the female life cycle. There are more data enumerated here than I ever wanted to know, yet, perhaps reflecting the newness of this field of study, sometimes surprisingly few clinically applicable conclusions (for example in

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the chapter on exercise in pregnancy). Mona Shangold's chapter on menstruation is outstanding.

Part 3 is entitled "Special Interests and Concerns." Clearly, these chapters are those most salient for clinicians: the high point of the book for me. Especially useful were the chapters on gynecologic concerns, on orthopedic problems more common in women, on eating disorders, and the authors' recommendations for exercise following injury, surgery, or infection.

In summary, a few chapters in this book would serve as excellent references for almost all practicing family physicians and educators; the rest, as background material, overlaps that in other sports medicine texts, but is written so as to specifically include women.

*Louise Acheson, MD, MS
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio*

Urology for the House Officer. Michael T. Macfarlane. Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, 1988, 251 pp., \$14.95 (paper). ISBN 0-683-05324-8.

This is an excellent text for medical students, residents, and clinicians for a quick review of clinical problems in urology. The text is divided into two segments: the first covers chief presentations of urologic complaints and the second, called selective topics, includes 20 chapters on the diagnosis and management of specific urologic problems. The final chapter, which describes the diagnostic techniques used in the management of urologic disease, is followed by a small index covering antibiotics and organisms common to the urogenital tract. Each

chapter is concise and has a list of current references for further reading.

In his preface the author apologizes for perhaps too much oversimplification. One such example might be the use of metronidazole in trichomonas infections in pregnancy. In his efforts to be brief, he does not state that, currently, metronidazole therapy is contraindicated in all forms in the first trimester of pregnancy. Nevertheless, the reader will find a wealth of knowledge that can be found quickly and used to advantage in the diagnosis and management of patients with urologic disease.

The graphs and charts contained in the text are consistent with the rest of the material in that they are concise, simplified, and easy to understand.

I would certainly recommend this book for the library of not only medical students and residents in training, but also family physicians and allied health professionals who deal with a broad spectrum of urologic disorders in both office and hospital practice.

*Robert L. Bass, MD
University of Nebraska
Medical Center
Omaha*

Clinical Pharmacology 88/89. Bertram G. Katzung (ed). Appleton & Lange, Norwalk, Connecticut, 1988, 445 pp., \$19.95 (paper). ISBN 0-8385-1281-X.

This clinical manual, one of a new series from the publishers of Lange medical textbooks, is designed to provide a quick reference on drug information and appropriate drug selection for the practicing physician. Knowledge of current pharmacological principles and medications is es-

sential to optimal therapeutic management in virtually every clinical setting.

Except for a brief introductory chapter on prescribing guidelines, the book is divided according to broad groups of pharmacologic agents: cardiovascular, renal, pulmonary, and hematologic; chemotherapeutic; analgesics and anti-inflammatories; endocrine; neurologic and psychotropic; gastroenterology; dermatology; ophthalmology; and otolaryngology. There are separate but limited discussions of parenteral nutrition and clinical toxicology. Each group of drugs is presented in the same standard format, which includes mechanisms of action, specific indication, pharmacokinetics, contraindications and warnings, adverse effects, overdose toxicity, and interactions.

Numerous tables highlight each section, typically listing many representative drugs, usual dosage, half-life, cost, prescription category, and FDA category for safety of use in pregnancy. There are excellent references for each drug category, and the index listings are by disease and by drug generic and trade names.

Although the manual is not an all-inclusive listing of available medications, particularly many combination agents, it provides an excellent, and easily accessible, organizational strategy for objective drug prescribing by disease process. As such, this manual is appropriate not only for practicing physicians and medical students, but also for other health care professionals, including physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

*Kathryn M. Larsen, MD
University of California
Irvine Medical Center
Orange, California*