

Current Pediatric Therapy (13th Edition). Sydney S. Gellis, Benjamin M. Kagan. W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1990, 832 pp, \$60. ISBN 0-7216-2334-4.

Current Pediatric Therapy has become a standard text for many practicing primary care physicians who need a quick resource for major issues surrounding pediatric therapy. The success of this textbook is reflected by its many editions, of which this is the 13th.

The book's major purpose is to give the most up-to-date therapeutic interventions for the majority of common pediatric problems. It is well organized and extremely readable, with appropriate diagrams and illustrations interspersed throughout.

This excellent resource is appropriate for anyone caring for the pediatric population. In particular, it will appeal to those who need a succinct discussion of a given problem and a fairly direct approach. It also has several algorithms addressing specific pediatric problems that are bothersome to all of us in primary care. I would certainly recommend it for family physicians and future family physicians.

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Culture, Health and Illness (2nd Edition). Cecil G. Helman. Butterworth, Stoneham, Mass, 1990, 344 pp, \$24.95 (paper). ISBN 0-7236-1991-3.

Family medicine's position as a biopsychosocial-cultural discipline is strengthened by its cross-disciplinary members. Cecil G. Helman has credentials as a British general practitioner and a medical anthropologist. The second edition of his book *Culture, Health and Illness* is an excellent textbook in medical anthropology for physicians. The references are extensive and have been brought up to date in a number of chapters. There are few figures and tables, but those used are well chosen and add clarity to the text. Major issues in medical anthropology are treated adequately. Some of these are the explanatory model, somatization, sick

role, physician-patient interactions, and culture-bound disorders. UK references may be more than readers from the United States want or need; however, most of the material is of general interest. The brief treatment of Engel's biopsychosocial model may be considered a weakness of the book; nevertheless, Helman more than compensates for this omission by covering the major contributions of most modern medical anthropologists.

The book is not recommended for the advanced student of medical anthropology. Family doctors and physicians in training, however, will find the book to be a valuable resource that reads well.

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AIDS: A Pocket Book of Diagnosis and Management. Adrian Mindel (ed). Urban & Schwarzenberg, Baltimore, 1990, 243 pp, \$24.50 (paper). ISBN 0-8067-1291-0.

As mentioned in the preface, the purpose of this text is to provide a concise and practical up-to-date guide on the clinical features, investigations, and treatment of AIDS, and counseling of patients with AIDS. The book is primarily intended for junior hospital physicians and a variety of specialists; however, I found the book to be of considerable value for my personal practice, and I am sure it will be helpful for all those in general internal medicine and family practice who have responsibility for caring for patients with AIDS.

There are specific chapters dealing with each common manifestation of the disease. The book concludes with suggestions on counseling patients with HIV infection and information on current treatment and prevention strategies. I found the text to be extremely informative, up to date, and well written and organized, with excellent tables and figures. An especially helpful chapter deals with HIV infection in obstetrics and pediatrics. Guidelines are presented for special situations that may arise with patients suffering from this condition. I expect to use this pocket-sized book on a

regular basis in my own practice, and I feel that it is an excellent guide for residents in family practice. I would strongly recommend it for house officers in medicine and surgical specialties. Finally, I feel that it is a valuable source of information for family physicians and internists who will be engaged in counseling patients with AIDS.

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Flexible Sigmoidoscopy: Techniques and Utilization. Melvin Schapiro, Glen A. Lehman (eds). Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, 1990, 227 pp, \$45. ISBN 0-683-04909-7.

Flexible Sigmoidoscopy: Techniques and Utilization is the first published textbook dedicated to this subject. It is an excellent ready reference for the family physician, resident trainee, or medical student. Its 227 pages and 17 chapters cover subjects that include colorectal cancer, anatomy and physiology, indications and contraindications to flexible sigmoidoscopy, available instruments, techniques, biopsy, complications, clinical diseases, cost considerations, and quality assurance. Each chapter is written by experts in the management of gastrointestinal disorders who provide concise and readable information with boldly printed subheadings. Chapter 8 provides large color photographs demonstrating a wide variety of pathologic conditions. Each chapter is replete with references.

The text can best be judged by its excellent handling of chapter 9, which addresses the technique of flexible sigmoidoscopy in detail. The author discusses room setup, equipment needed, patient and physician positioning, role of the assistant, one- or two-person technique, introducing the instrument, recognizing landmarks, and much more. The chapter contains relevant illustrations that provide visual guides to the descriptions.

This text is a "must have" reference for teachers and students of the art of flexible sigmoidoscopy.

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