

The book must be viewed as a supplementary reading for the practicing family physician, and it might actually be more useful to the resident in training or allied health worker. Patients might find this text quite interesting. Given the lack of specific references, especially texts that would be available in the United States, and the listing of specific agencies that are all located in Great Britain, it is difficult to recommend this book as a necessary addition to the physician's library. The work would be more inviting with adjustments or adaptations made for use in this country.

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Fundamentals of Orthopedics. By Mark Brinker and Mark Miller. 390 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 1999. \$49 (paper). ISBN 0-7216-6698-1.

This softcover book was written by 2 orthopedic surgeons who attempt to provide general information about orthopedic conditions. They set out to accomplish two goals with this book: (1) provide a reference that will "serve as a blueprint for treatment and a guideline for referral;" and (2) provide a book that can be "read cover to cover, educating the novice on the fundamentals of orthopedic knowledge." The authors state in the preface that at times they struggled with providing practical information while "making sure that every detail is clear to even the most junior student." Unfortunately, the authors have not provided a practical reference text that is sufficiently detailed for practicing family physicians to use as a reference. This text is essentially an overview of many orthopedic conditions and is appropriate for medical students.

The book chapters are organized by anatomic regions. There are additional chapters on basic sciences, anatomy, general principles of fractures, medical considerations, and orthopedic devices. The authors use an outline format and many tables summarizing various conditions. The anatomic line drawings, radiograph examples, and photographs of physical examination maneuvers are excellent, the best feature of the book.

The information is presented in a descriptive rather than practical manner, as the amount of detail varies. For certain conditions the cause, symptoms, and treatment options are well delineated; for others only a few facts and features are listed. This textbook contains a great deal of good information; unfortunately, it is contained in lists that lack cohesion or enough depth to help the family physician manage the condition or appropriately refer. There is a serious lack of discussion of rehabilitation exercises, particularly those that can be given to the patient in the office, and there seems to be an overreliance on physical therapy.

The authors might have been more successful had they narrowed their intended audience. They included medical students and 12 different specialties and allied health fields they think might benefit from this book.

Any book that attempts to reach such a broad audience often falls short in providing enough practical information for the practicing family physician.

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Cardiology: Clinical Medicine Series. Edited by Sergio Dalla Volta. Antonio Bayes de Luna, Mireille Brochier, Franz Dienstl, Blastimil Jezek, Svend Aage Mortensen, and Phillip A. Poole-Wilson. 834 pp., illustrated. Berkshire, England, McGraw-Hill International, 1999. \$75 (paper). ISBN 007-709518-9.

Cardiovascular disease is among the most common medical ailments a family physician encounters on a daily basis. A reference book on this subject would be most useful in a family physician's medical library. This text is a lengthy, yet easy-to-read, up-to-date paperback compendium of subjects in the field of cardiology today.

The book comprises 12 sections for a total of 81 chapters. More than 125 authors from around the world contributed to the book. The pages are in double-column format. The subheadings are well delineated in bold blue print. Numerous tables and figures highlighting the topics abound throughout the text. Suggested reading is included at the end of each chapter.

The broad sections include cardiology basics, clinical evaluation and testing, rhythm disorders, hypertension, coronary artery disease, valvular disease, heart failure, myocardial and pericardial disease, diseases of the great and peripheral vessels, congenital heart disease, lung disease as it relates to the heart, and finally a section on cardiology issues in special patients groups, such as athletes, pregnant women, and those undergoing anesthesia.

The individual chapters address an exhaustive array of material. Many start with a section on key points summarizing the most salient concepts in that particular chapter. Where appropriate and as subject matter allows, the chapters follow a similar format, starting with epidemiology, pathophysiology, signs and symptoms, laboratory findings, imaging studies, and treatments.

An 8-page color atlas is included, which shows some Doppler and perfusion cardiac images as well as several microscopic and macroscopic views of some cardiac diseases. A detailed index is also included.

This text is a complete reference on cardiology issues. It is well organized and easy to read, and it could be used by medical students, residents, and practicing physicians. It provides a lot of detail, which is the norm for single-subject reference texts. From a practical standpoint, many practicing physicians might find that they would be able to obtain the information they need on cardiovascular disease from a general medical reference text. For those who like detail and have a special interest in cardiovascular disease, this text would serve them well.

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