

sections do have a table of contents, and there is a complete index as well. As an extra bonus, the front and back inner covers contain algorithms for bradycardia, asystole and cardiac arrest, drugs for advanced life support, and a guide to postresuscitation care.

In summary, this pocket or desk reference is for the clinician who is involved in the care and prescribing of medication for children. The drug listings are valuable as a quick reference to dosage with some brief guides as to application and precautions, while the clinical guidelines provide a listing of the choices of therapeutic agents for a given indication.

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**Family Medicine: Principles and Practice. Fourth edition.** Edited by Robert B. Taylor, Alan K. David, Thomas A. Johnson, Jr., D. Melessa Phillips, and Joseph E. Scherger. 1092 pp., illustrated. New York, Springer-Verlag, 1994. \$130. ISBN 0-387-94025-1.

*Family Medicine: Principles and Practice* has long been considered one of the major textbooks in family medicine. Since the first edition in 1978, the editors have tried to produce a text that would reflect in its contents the changes and evolution of family medicine as a specialty. In the fourth edition, Taylor, et al. provide a textbook oriented toward the family physician of the 1990s.

This textbook is now divided in three parts. Part I: Family Medicine explores the basic principles of the specialty, family systems, life cycles, patient-physician interaction, and sociocultural influences on health and health care. This section is condensed compared with earlier editions, and its contents are now more focused to provide a good guideline for residents and medical students interested in family medicine.

Part II: Family Practice has two subdivisions: (A) The Person, Family, and Community; and (B) Organs and Systems. In the first subdivision, the chapters Preventive Care, Care of the Adolescent, Care of the Elderly, Family Conflict and Violence, and Environmental and Occupational Diseases are concretely comprehensive and innovative. Overall, Part II-A is easy to read, and the abundance of tables and algorithms help in orienting the reader toward a quick and useful reference. Unfortunately, during the reorganization of the contents, some topics became embedded into larger chapters, making them difficult to find. For instance, the chapters on critical emergency and surgical care, substance and alcohol abuse, and some aspects of maternal and child care (i.e., acute otitis media) are difficult to find in the Table of Contents, and some are treated superficially, too.

Part II-B: Organs and Systems offers a better organization than Part II-A for quick reference through the index, although the chapters on selected disorders do not provide a complete selection of topics, nor could I find them described in the table of contents. The chapters in this section are informative, well organized, and fairly well updated for a textbook. They provide a prac-

tical approach to commonly encountered problems in daily practice, and the graphs and tables continue to be focused and useful.

Part III: The Family Physician: Professional Practice and Health Care Delivery is described as a new addition to the textbook. In spite of the effort the authors put into trying to make this section reflect the transitions that primary care is experiencing, the physician who needs information on these topics will find that specialized journals or consultants are a better resource.

In summary, *Family Medicine: Principles and Practice* is a comprehensive overview of basic principles and disease prevention in family medicine, as well as commonly encountered problems in an outpatient setting. It is well suited for students and residents interested in family medicine. For the more experienced clinician, it is a worthwhile investment, but it cannot be viewed as a quick reference, and it could prove to be an inadequate source to review individual topics in detail.

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**The 5-Minute Clinical Consult — 1994.** By H. Winter Griffith, Mark R. Dambro, and Jo Griffith, editors. 1215 pp. Philadelphia, Lea & Febiger, 1994. \$52.95. ISBN 0-8121-1753-0.

*The 5-Minute Clinical Consult (Consult)* is an unusual and interesting book. This 2620-g, unillustrated, hardcover tome contains approximately 550 expanded topics. Each alphabetically arranged topic is presented on two facing pages in six columns with six sequential sections entitled Basics, Diagnosis, Treatment, Medications, Followup, and Miscellaneous. When possible, each section begins at the top of the next column. Each section has a typical sequence of subheadings. For example, Basics usually contains description, system(s) affected, genetics, incidence in USA, prevalence in USA, predominant age, predominant sex, signs and symptoms, causes, and risk factors. Following the expanded topics, *Consult* contains an additional 450 brief topics. Set in smaller print, these brief topics contain only a couple of the major headings most pertinent to the specific illness and average nine topics per three-column page.

The major topics are far-reaching, including obstetric (e.g., spontaneous abortion, abruptio placenta, breech birth), gynecologic (amenorrhea, cervicitis), dermatologic (alopecia, scabies, sporotrichosis, herpes zoster), musculoskeletal, rheumatologic, cardiovascular, infectious, metabolic, ophthalmologic, neurologic, urologic, psychiatric, hematologic, and neoplastic, and some are difficult to classify (teething).

The structured format is a strength but is incompletely exploited, and sometimes it is a handicap. I applaud the editors for including the subheading patient education under Treatment. This subsection often lists useful information and sources for preassessed patient pamphlets; however, this subsection too often says N/A or banally advises "explanation and reassurance." Some

topics, such as contraception, lend themselves to tabular comparisons, but the book's structured format is imposed. The only tables I found were in the Immunizations section.

*Consult's* useful bullet-point style is certain to make it a best seller. Purchasers should be aware of several additional limitations. Listings are inconsistent: iron deficiency anemia is listed under "i," whereas sickle cell anemia is listed as "anemia, sickle cell." From the text, it is often difficult to discern which diagnostic tests to use when, which of the listed tests is preferred, and how to sequence tests. There are no clues about cost. Space is devoted to rare entities (erythroblastosis fetalis) with neglect of issues of daily life, such as normal newborn or child care and normal prenatal care. Topics such as blastomycosis through Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome merit two-page spreads, whereas agoraphobia and panic, with lifetime prevalences of up to 5 to 10 percent, are rolled into the two-page anxiety section rather than being individually discussed. The information provided about panic is insufficient to be of diagnostic assistance. A few listings required guessing the exact term (low back pain, perleche); the index did not contain synonyms. Journal citations have variable format, and journal title abbreviations do not consistently correspond to the official ones.

One could quibble with many of the statements and recommendations in *Consult* because so few issues in medicine are truly settled. For example, the section on depression begins: "Depression results when a person experiences more frustration and anger than he or she can handle." My criticism is not the presentation of controversial material, but the dearth of notation about controversy or the range of authoritative opinion that exists.

*Consult* will be useful to anyone for whom thumbnail sketches of a great diversity of illnesses would be useful. Students, residents, and practicing physicians can quickly reacquaint themselves with less familiar illnesses or review diagnostic or therapeutic recommendations. I would recommend that all clinicians leaf through this book to see whether it might serve some of their "quick" clinical consultative needs.

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**HIV Infection: A Clinical Manual. Second edition. Edited by Howard Libman and Robert A. Witzburg. 556 pp. Boston, Little, Brown & Company, 1993. \$32.50 (paper). ISBN 0-316-51162-5.**

*HIV Infection: A Clinical Manual* is an excellent reference text for the family physician or internist. The first edition of this text was released in 1990. The second edition is an updated and expanded review of the state

of knowledge regarding human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and its treatment. Printed in paperback, it is a practical addition to the library of any primary care physician caring for HIV-infected adults. The organization of the text is logical and usable. In the interest of utility to the practicing physician, the text is not comprehensive. Each chapter is extensively referenced, however, serving those times when more in-depth knowledge is needed.

The first section of the text is entitled Overview of HIV Infection. The history and pathophysiology of HIV are reviewed; counseling, testing, staging, and laboratory assessments are discussed.

In the 13 chapters that follow, the authors review, by clinical syndrome and organ system, the conditions and diseases related to HIV infection in all of its stages. For the physician who does not have extensive practice and experience in treating HIV-infected patients, these reviews are a useful adjunct to the assessment of presenting complaints and findings.

Most of the text is devoted to a more comprehensive discussion of the specific opportunistic infections associated with HIV infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and their treatments. The editors and authors have provided commendable guidance and appear to have met their objective to "indicate where uncertainty exists and to present a reasonable approach to management based on current literature."

In addition to the editors, 47 authors contributed to this text. The quality and readability of the text is uniformly very good. The text began its life as a manual for medical house officers and attending staff of the Department of Medicine at Boston City Hospital, and the geographic distribution of the contributing authors is reflected in those roots. This second edition is supplemented with important new chapters dealing with the ambulatory management of HIV infection and the implications of HIV infection and treatment in specific population groups (women, children, homosexual or bisexual patients, drug-using patients, and minority populations).

In summary, this text is a commendable basic reference for the primary care physician. In caring for the HIV-infected patient, it is essential to have an up-to-date, complete resource. This clinical manual represents a good balance between completeness and utility. The only disappointment is that in this updated edition, reference lists have not been uniformly updated to the same extent by all contributors.

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