Classic Teachings in Clinical Cardiology: A Tribute to W. Proctor Harvey, Volumes 1 and 2. *Edited by Michael A. Chizner. 1526 pp., illustrated. Cedar Grove, NJ, Laennec Publishing, 1996. $145. ISBN 1-886128-06-5.*

For this two-volume text, Dr. Chizner managed to recruit 53 distinguished cardiologists to write 12 parts encompassing 62 chapters covering the entire field of cardiology. All the authors were at one time either fellows or students of Dr. Harvey's during his tenure as Director of Cardiology at Georgetown University School of Medicine. Dr. Harvey's cardiac pearls, quoted in bold print throughout the 1526 pages, serve to highlight key elements of the subject matter in each chapter. Part 1, which makes up one third of the text with 510 pages, is devoted to Dr. Harvey's five-finger approach to the clinical evaluation of the cardiac patient. These five components include (1) history, (2) physical examination, (3) electrocardiogram, (4) chest x-ray examination, and (5) the cardiac diagnostic laboratory, which includes echocardiography, exercise testing, nuclear studies, cardiac catheterization, and clinical electrophysiology.

Although some clinicians might find the redundancy of some subject material, as well as Dr. Harvey's often-repeated cardiac pearls, bothersome, a rehearsal of the clinical evaluation of certain important cardiac disorders from a variety of perspectives is an effective means of learning. Highly informative chapters particularly relevant to the family or primary care physician address hypertension, endocarditis, clinical correlations, the clinical anatomy of the heart, pathophysiologic mechanisms of heart disease, clinical recognition and management of cardiac arrhythmias, a clinical approach to the patient with palpitations, syncope, and sudden death, clinical recognition of rheumatic heart disease, mitral valve prolapse syndrome, a clinical approach to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and congenital heart disease, as well as heart disease in the elderly, heart disease in women, cardiovascular evaluation of the athlete, and evaluation and management of heart disease in patients undergoing noncardiac surgery.

The section on coronary heart disease is thorough and rich with clinical applications in the evaluation and management of stable and unstable angina pectoris and acute myocardial infarction. I was disappointed that the chapter on lifestyle modification and prevention of coronary heart disease did not include the latest information regarding folic acid or homocysteine metabolism. Nonetheless, the author provides a superb discussion on the prevention of atherosclerosis with up-to-date important information on exercise and nutrition, especially the effects of alcohol consumption on coronary heart disease.

These two volumes are well illustrated with color photographs and useful tables printed on high-quality semiglossy paper. There were a few nuisances, however. The noticeable spelling errors in a treatise of this quality were distinctly out of place. Abbreviations that were not explained or spelled out were also annoying, though infrequent. One example was the use of BHAT in the chapter on acute myocardial infarction. The index spells it out as the Beta.Blocker Heart Attack Trial and accurately refers to it on the page in that chapter. In a different chapter, however ("The Prevention of Coronary Heart Disease"), a different author uses the same initials without explanation in the subheading describing antioxidants. I did not know what BHAT stood for in this context, nor was there an explanation for BHA or BHT referred to as synthetic antioxidants. Finally, I was disappointed that the index was available only in Volume 2; moreover, it was printed in different type with larger letters and too much space between the lines. I will admit these were minor nuisances.

In summary, this publication is a magnificent contribution to clinical practice and to teaching cardiology to medical students, residents, and all physicians involved in caring for patients who have heart disease or who are at risk for heart disease. I recommend this two-volume text for anyone involved in teaching or in the practice of family medicine or other primary care disciplines.

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Medicine and the Internet. *By Luis G. Pareras. 653 pp. Boston, Little, Brown, 1996. $39.95 (paper). ISBN 0-316-69059-7.*

Interest in the Internet has exploded during the last several years, with the number of users at approximately 35 million. By the turn of the century, experts estimate this number will surpass 100 million. Why are so many people on-line? Is it worth the effort for a family physician to learn how to use the Internet? How can a family practice clinic benefit from this resource? In one of the few medical texts devoted exclusively to the Internet, the author answers these questions thoroughly. Both beginners and experienced Internet users will benefit from the exhaustive detail found in Dr. Pareras' book.

The first section of this book addresses the history and growth of the Internet as it pertains to medicine. The author, a physician who has specialized in medical informatics, succinctly describes the original and still-dominant purpose of the Internet: if you have information of interest, share it with everybody else. After giving an overview of the basic Internet tools, he describes current and potential medical applications. The author's vision of how the Internet can benefit health care professionals is enlightening and backed up by real-life examples. This thoughtful discussion is required reading for Internet developers.

The next two sections cover the basic Internet tools in greater detail, and the last two sections pinpoint specific medical resources. These sections might seem to overemphasize the minutia; nevertheless, they display an important feature of the book—comprehensiveness. Hidden in this part of the book are several gems. For instance, although I have been on-line for years, I learned several new ways to use distribution lists. These newly gained skills have immediately increased my enjoyment and use of the Internet.

This book provides a reasonable introduction to medicine on the Internet for both experienced users and the uninitiated, and is pertinent for both lay persons and medical professionals. Nonetheless it has some shortfalls. For example, although it has a detailed table of contents, it has no index, making it difficult at times to find answers to specific questions. A more comprehensive discussion on how to find the fastest Internet access provider would have been useful. Traffic jams on the information highway cause many people to lose interest quickly, which is especially true for busy clinicians.

Overall, I cautiously recommend this book to family physicians. It is inexpensive and provides a good starting point for new users. After getting on-line, however, finding medical resources is probably best accomplished by using an Internet search engine such as YAHOO! (http://www.yahoo.com) or the Open Text Index (http://index.opentext.net). Anyone devoted to the development of medical resources on the Internet should have this book.

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Fundamentals of Chest Radiology. *By Andrew Meholic, Loren Ketai, and Richard Lofgren. Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 1996. 245 pp., illustrated. $38 (paper). ISBN 0-7216-5400-2.*

This text was written for "novice radiology residents and residents in family practice and internal medicine." The text emphasizes adult chest radiology and, according to the authors, is specifically targeted to help learners "use chest radiology to solve diagnostic problems."

The text, which appears to be best suited for hospital-based trainees, assumes that the most modern imaging modalities are available and refers helpfully to high-resolution and spiral computed tomography. Accordingly, this paperback volume would suit well the needs of those who might profit from reading a chapter or two before rounds or a case presentation. Such readers would find a helpful table of contents listing chapters with clinically useful components, clear handsome photographs, and concise language. The first chapters give a review of chest radiology, with normal variants and artifacts. Eleven chapters detail intrathoracic chest pathology, and a final chapter discusses chest wall problems. Trauma, mammography, vascular contrast studies, pediatric radiology, and parasitic diseases are either discussed briefly or omitted.

The text's well-organized and commonsense approach to problems would make this volume handy for residents in family practice programs, who would find quick access to relevant pages and illustrations either by specific disease (index) or general radiologic categories (table of contents). A good balance of fundamentals, common problems, and interesting comments makes the book a readable and useful addition to a personal library. It would be especially valuable on the adult medicine service or in the radiology reading room. The absence of chapters on pediatric chest radiology and the limited discussion of trauma would mean readers would need other texts to complement this one, a relative shortcoming that authors might take into consideration for future editions.

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Emergency Management of Skeletal Injuries. *Edited by Ernest Ruiz and James J. Cicero. 568 pp., illustrated. St. Louis, Mosby-Year Book, 1995. $110. ISBN 0-8016-7243-0.*

This book accomplishes what many other books have tried and failed to do: it provides a well-organized, well-referenced, and well-illustrated discussion of orthopedic injuries. The chapters are organized by anatomic region, and some chapters are devoted entirely to one type of fracture, eg, "Fractures of the Humeral Shaft." The book also includes chapters that discuss general principles of injury evaluation, prehospital care, pain management, and immobilization. Each chapter includes a description of the important anatomic considerations, mechanism of injury, physical examination, radiographic findings, and management guidelines.

The strengths of *Emergency Management of Skeletal Injuries* are its consistent and readable style, its superb illustrations and radiographs, its broad coverage of a wide range of injuries, and its excellent discussions of controversial aspects of management. The illustrations are among the best of any orthopedic text available. The pertinent anatomy is shown without being exhaustively detailed, and line drawings are often combined with radiographs to illustrate important points. The chapter on immobilization showing step-wise illustrations for cast and splint application is especially well done. The only drawback of this book for family physicians, especially those who handle a fair amount of trauma, is the emphasis on initial management; there is less extensive discussion of definitive and follow-up care. Indications for referral for operative management are covered, and the length of treatment or immobilization is discussed for most injuries.

Although the intended audience is emergency medicine physicians, family physicians will find this book will help them manage fractures, dislocations, and soft tissue trauma. It currently surpasses in scope and practicality any other orthopedic text written for primary care.

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