

colleagues...." Overall he seems to have again accomplished this goal well. In spite of the new changes in this edition, he achieves another goal—he manages to maintain "the organization, format, style, ease of use, ... thoroughness, and practical utility..." of this text. From a managed care standpoint, this text is timely. I cannot agree with him more when he states that "the value of this book is even greater now because of the larger number of tests available, their higher costs, and the determination of government and other third party payers to restrain health costs." This is an excellent reference text for all health care professionals, students, and practitioners alike. It should be on the bookshelf of every medical library in all training programs and in every provider's office. A definite two thumbs up!

David A. Acosta, MD
Tacoma Family Medicine
Tacoma, Wash

Medicine: A Primary Care Approach. Edited by Richard H. Rubin, Carolyn Voss, Daniel J. Derksen, Ann Gateley, and Ronald W. Quenzer. 493 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 1996. \$32 (paper). ISBN 0-7216-5200-X.

This book is targeted to medical students during their ambulatory care rotations. It represents a joint effort by the Departments of Family Medicine and Internal Medicine at the University of New Mexico Health Science Center. In fact, most of the 100 contributors are affiliated with that institution or are in private practice in the area. The text is intended to convey to students the unique attributes of primary care.

There are a total of 21 sections and 127 chapters. I was delighted to see that in addition to sections about common organ system problems, the editors also devoted sections to special issues in primary care, such as the role of primary care in the health care system, medical testing and clinical reasoning, physician-patient communication, and prevention in primary care. Also, there is a section on special problems in the young and old.

Each chapter, which represents a short but pithy digestible unit, starts out with a case presentation. The subject is then amplified in the body of the chapter to include the pertinent material that a medical student would be expected to grasp. There are paragraphs devoted to pathophysiology, differential diagnosis, evaluation to include history and physical examination and additional evaluation, such as diagnostic testing, followed by management, patient education, and prognosis. The chapter body is followed by a paragraph that describes the case resolution, some research questions, and a reasonable number of suggested readings. The authors and contributors make ample use of tables and figures, which number about three or four per chapter and are valuable enough to be used in a clip-and-save fashion.

The editors meet or exceed their objective of providing a reference book for students of ambulatory care. Of the several that are available, I would say this

one is more desirable than most. An extensive amount of information has been worked into its nearly 500 pages, which are full-sized (8½ × 11 inches), and I like the unique style of combining problem-oriented learning with a didactic presentation of each topic. Each chapter is designed to include block color highlighting, so the reader can easily find the material in question.

Medical students and osteopathic students, as well as nurse practitioner and physician assistant students, will find this book to be a valuable addition to their resource library. In addition to serving as a handbook for looking up individual patient problems, it would be an excellent review source in preparing for board examinations, I believe. I compliment the editors for successfully striking a balance. They have provided a book that has enough detail to be useful to the student of ambulatory medicine but is not so long that it cannot be mastered during one rotation, without being oversimplified. I would recommend that predoctoral coordinators consider giving this text priority for their courses.

Arthur H. Herold, MD
University of South Florida
Tampa

A Practical Approach to Infectious Diseases. Fourth edition. Edited by Richard E. Reese and Robert F Betts. 1461 pp., illustrated. Boston, Little, Brown, 1996. \$74.95 (paper). ISBN 0-316-73721-6.

A considerable proportion of visits to a primary care physician are for acute illness caused by infectious diseases ranging from the common cold to some rare illness acquired while traveling abroad. Given that, it is wise to have an infectious disease resource close at hand to assist in patient care and patient education.

This new-edition text is an excellent, easy-to-read, comprehensive resource for topics related to infectious disease. The book consists of 28 chapters, written in outline format, by 56 contributing authors. Each chapter is well referenced. Tables are scattered throughout the text highlighting the more salient points in the chapters. A short 4-page color atlas is included showing a few rashes and skin lesions associated with infectious diseases.

Each chapter is organized according to the epidemiology, etiology, clinical manifestation, diagnosis, and therapies for the particular disease. When clinically important, the various topics are discussed by age group, providing relevant information for those primary care physicians who have patients of all ages.

Specific chapters include such topics as neonatal sepsis and infection, bacteremia, fever of unknown origin, tick-borne illness, and respiratory, gastrointestinal, and genitourinary infections. An up-to-date (as much as is possible given the rate of current changes) chapter on treatment of human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome provides an extremely useful and comprehen-