

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!

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**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.

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**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-

sive discourse on current care for those so afflicted. Tables are included listing the initial visit workup and follow-up visit protocols as well as the stages for starting prophylaxis of opportunistic infections. Chapters on health advice, as well as on immunizations, for the international traveler place valuable information at one's fingertips.

Also included are chapters on individual antiviral agents and antibiotics, with extremely pertinent information regarding clinical application, dosages, and costs. The text offers an unbiased view of the usefulness of individual drugs.

A brief appendix discusses some employee health issues, and includes some Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements and a nice table of work restrictions for health care workers infected with certain diseases.

In summary, this text is an excellent source of relevant and practical information on infectious diseases. Equally useful for medical students, residents, and practicing physicians, this text would serve a physician well in the office library.

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#### **Medicine for the Practicing Physician. Fourth edition.**

*Edited by J. Willis Hurst. 2141 pp., illustrated. Stamford, Conn, Appleton & Lange, 1996. \$125. ISBN 0-8385-6317-1.*

Dr Hurst, as Editor-in-Chief, sets out to update this comprehensive textbook of medicine as an aid to the busy practitioner. The result is a thorough, well-designed text of the majority of medical conditions encountered by primary care physicians and subspecialists. The book is organized into 24 sections with 679 chapters written by 411 authors. Section editors were carefully chosen to provide organization, coordination, and integration to each topical area (ie, nutritional disorders, common gynecologic disorders, pulmonary disorders).

Each chapter is 2 to 4 pages long and is conveniently organized for the clinician interested in the relevant information to assist in diagnosis and treatment of these common disorders. Chapters begin with the disorder's definition, etiology, and criteria for diagnosis. The clinical manifestations follow next, with succinct discussions of subjective and objective findings. The diagnostic and therapeutic plans areas include both options and recommended approaches. Each chapter concludes with information on follow-up, discussion, related basic science, natural history, prevention, and cost containment. Four to eight up-to-date references are included at the end of each chapter.

*Medicine for the Practicing Physician* is a readable and comprehensive resource for the commonly encountered disorders of adult medicine. The authors are knowledgeable and authoritative in their discussions of each disorder. Figures, tables, and illustrations appropriately reinforce text discussions. The book clearly

deserves a place in the libraries of both the family physician's office and the hospital.

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**Manual of Outpatient Gynecology. Third Edition.** *Edited by Carol S. Havens, Nancy D. Sullivan, and Patti Tilton. 327 pp. Boston, Little, Brown, 1996. \$34.95 (paper). ISBN 0-316-35000-1.*

The third edition of the *Manual of Outpatient Gynecology* is another fine handbook in the Little, Brown series written for the busy office practitioner. This well-organized book is "intended for anyone who treats gynecological problems, including gynecologists, family physicians, internists, house officers, medical students, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants." It covers a wide range of topics in a straightforward and mostly complete manner. Topics are organized logically, and it is easy to retrieve needed information quickly.

The book has several particular strong points, which I will mention specifically. There are entire chapters devoted to such important but neglected areas of gynecology as lesbian health issues, diethylstilbestrol exposure, rape, and sexual harassment or exploitation. The volatile issue of abortion is handled matter-of-factly in its own chapter, with no attempt to kowtow to any particular group. There is a useful chapter on specimen handling and interpretation, a good review for those of us who are supposed to know all that material. Recognizing that women tend to be the health care providers for the family, the editors have provided a good section on general health maintenance and an appendix on recommended health interventions by age group, from childhood through adolescence, adulthood, and old age.

My criticisms of this book are minimal. Initially I was impressed that the three editors were a family physician, a gynecologist, and a nurse practitioner. On closer inspection, however, the apparent collaboration among disciplines evaporates. Of the 27 chapter authors who are physicians, 18 are gynecologists, 6 are internists, and only 1 is a family physician. Although the book is still quite useful, the unique perspective of family physicians is not well represented. My only other criticism is that some of the recommendations do not seem to be based on outcome. For example, the recommendations that urine culture be done routinely on anyone with an uncomplicated urinary tract infection does not seem well supported by outcome data, nor does it seem cost-effective. The triviality of this criticism, however, speaks to the overall quality of the book.

This third edition of the *Manual of Outpatient Gynecology* is an excellent handbook that will be of use to most physicians who attend to ambulatory gynecologic problems. I wish I had had it with me this past weekend during an emergency department shift in Brownsville, Tex, when I was trying to remember the treatment for lymphogranuloma venereum at 3 am.

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