

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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