

**Practice of Geriatrics. Third edition.** Edited by Edmund H. Duthie, Jr, and Paul R. Katz. 599 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 1998. \$85. ISBN 0-7216-6599-3.

This volume is the third edition of a well-established textbook of geriatric medicine. Its length is intermediate, manageable for a 4th-year medical student or resident. The book is divided into six sections: "General Issues," "Systems of Care," "Prevention and Rehabilitation," "Common Geriatric Syndromes," "Neuropsychiatric Disorders," and "Medical-Surgical Disorders." Many of the chapters are by acknowledged experts. The best chapters are those in which clinical data are summarized and in which charts and tables are numerous. Examples include chapters on medication use, nutrition, exercise, urinary incontinence, and pressure sores. Unfortunately, many other chapters are too general to be particularly helpful, and overall the book has relatively few tables, charts, and figures.

The Preface acknowledges that the primary editor of the first two editions, Evan Calkins, one of the founding fathers of academic geriatrics in America, has passed the torch to Drs. Duthie and Katz. Unfortunately, the new editors have clung too closely to the format and content of the old editions; as a result, the book lacks a contemporary feel. The emphasis is extremely biomedical, with little discussion of such issues as widowhood, health economics, and community resources. Evidence-based approaches are absent. Nursing homes are discussed, but residential care and assisted living are not. Comprehensive multidisciplinary geriatric assessment is approached as though we were in the mid-1980s, with no acknowledgment of its inefficiencies or of more current, leaner models. Similarly, the office practice chapter lacks any discussion of practice management or financing. The book barely mentions Medicare and completely ignores managed care.

As a result, the text's occasional sparkle is limited primarily to a few succinct, practical chapters on medical problems, and it is probably best considered as a secondary rather than a primary text.

Philip D. Sloane, MD, MPH  
Cecil G. Sheps Center  
University of North Carolina  
at Chapel Hill

**Colposcopy-Cervical Pathology Textbook and Atlas. Third revised edition.** By Erich Burghardt, Hellmuth Pickel, and Frank Girardi. Translated by Andrew G. Ostor, and Karl Tamussino. 323 pp., illustrated. Stuttgart Germany, George Thieme Verlag, 1998. \$139. ISBN 0-86577-634-2.

The English translation of the third edition of this textbook and atlas continues the excellent quality of the previous publications. For family physicians who are doing

or training to do colposcopy, this book stands out as both a basic textbook and as a reference for later review.

The book begins with a discussion of a history of colposcopy that sets the stage for appreciation of its current use and future prospects. It also helps the reader understand the changes in terminology that have occurred.

The sections of the book that are devoted to histopathology are thorough and well written. The authors are able to build a convincing theory for the evolution of the transformation zone in the cervix. It is important that the colposcopist be aware of the histologic variations and abnormalities of this critical area to understand the colposcopic findings seen in the office. The outcome of squamous metaplasia of the columnar epithelium determines the likelihood of most squamous cell carcinomas developing in the cervix. These sections are also extremely well illustrated with large, high-quality photomicrographs that are displayed in a clear and sequential manner.

In the same manner the colposcopic photographs of both normal and abnormal findings are beautifully done and well organized. As an atlas they will serve the colposcopist well.

The overall organization of this book is somewhat confusing. The chapters jump from histology to colposcopic appearances to techniques and back to histopathology. This criticism is minor, however, and far outweighed by the comprehensiveness and usefulness of the book as a whole.

The authors offer compelling arguments for the routine use of colposcopy as a part of every gynecologic examination. Routine colposcopy acquaints the examiner with the broad range of variations of normal; the physician can pick up abnormalities not seen on Papanicolaou smears and stay sufficiently adept at the procedure to make quick and accurate diagnoses. These arguments are especially important for family physicians, who provide a great percentage of women's health care.

This book is recommended for all physicians who want to offer their patients the considerable benefits of colposcopy.

David M. Gimlett, MD  
Inter Island Medical Center  
Friday Harbor, Wash

**Essentials of Family Medicine. Third edition.** Edited by Philip D. Sloane, Lisa M. Slatt, Peter Curtis, and Mark H. Ebell. 729 pp., illustrated. Baltimore, Williams & Wilkins, 1998, \$36 (paper). ISBN 0-683-30147-0.

*Essentials of Family Medicine* is an easy-to-read, well-organized paperback book that has more than 50 contributing authors. The general format of each chapter starts with a section of several key clinical questions, then proceeds with the text, and concludes with a case