

surgical specialists and other subspecialty fields have also increased.

For the most part, the book is organized by body systems, with additional sections on accidents and emergencies and on adolescent medicine. Some sections with new authors have been completely revised, and others with the same authors have had major revisions. The chapter on the newborn has increased from 85 to 139 pages, and the section on human immunodeficiency virus infection has increased from 5 to 25 pages. Material is as up-to-date as one can expect from a textbook that addresses such current topics as the ipecac vs activated charcoal for acute poisoning, the essentials of the new Centers for Disease Control guidelines for the treatment of otitis media in an era of increased antibiotic resistance, storage of umbilical cord blood as a source of stem cells, newer antibiotics, and treatment of *Helicobacter pylori* in children. Each section has selected references, which, too, have been updated.

While the title says current therapy, discussions are narrative and instructive and are not limited strictly to treatment but include information on pathophysiology, disease processes, differential diagnosis, and some aspects of diagnostic evaluation. Styles vary somewhat with different authors, but readability and clinical relevance are generally good throughout. Contributors are allowed to share their personal views, such as with the discussion of infant colic. There is no formulary; and specific medications are listed in individual sections usually by their generic names. There is liberal use of charts and tables, particularly to list differential diagnoses, drug treatments, and other therapeutic modalities.

This book is not a substitute for a standard textbook of pediatrics, but it is a definitive work that addresses therapy for the entire range of pediatric problems. Although it is much too big to fit in a pocket or purse, it should be available as a reference wherever sick children are treated. For the busy practitioner who already owns the previous edition, there is sufficient revision in this edition to justify an updating.

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**Women's Mental Health in Primary Care.** By Kathryn J. Zerbe. 365 pp. Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 1999. \$39 (paper). ISBN 0-7216-7239-6.

The goal of this book is to increase the comfort of primary care clinicians when working with a wide array of common mental health issues in a busy medical practice. The book particularly focuses on mental health issues in women. In 14 chapters the author covers topics seen frequently by family physicians, such as anxiety disorders, depression, eating disorders, and insomnia. The chapters are readable and have a consistent format. Each chapter includes multiple journal references, guidelines, and annotated resources for both the patient and the clinician.

The main strength of the book is the detailed referenced information about aspects of mental health problems that are unique to women. Less helpful are the patient and clinician guidelines. The patient guidelines and resources would be appropriate only for a well-educated, psychologically sophisticated patient population. Although the guidelines for clinicians emphasize counseling, they do not provide sufficient detail to clinicians who are relative novices at it. The guidelines for clinicians appear to be most helpful for those clinicians who are already experienced and comfortable with counseling. Similarly, the clinician guidelines do not provide sufficient detail to be used as a source of information for prescribing psychotropic medications.

This book, therefore, is most useful to readers seeking a basic overview of common mental health issues in women. It will not be helpful for clinicians seeking specific detailed information about management of these problems, particularly with medications.

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**Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics. Third edition.** Edited by Melvin D. Levine, William B. Carey, and Allen C. Crocker. 912 pp, illustrated. Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 1999. \$135. ISBN 0-7216-7154-3.

This is an excellent book. It could be the behavioral companion to the standard textbooks of pediatrics. Its wealth of information on the developmental and behavioral aspects of pediatric medicine is particularly useful. Although these issues arise frequently in clinical practice, they are often not covered in depth in most training programs and receive abbreviated coverage in the standard texts. Arranged clinically, the material is organized to facilitate quick access to specific topics.

The book is divided into eight parts that deal with four areas. The first area is concerned with the influences on behavior, such as age, milieu, and biology; the different ages of childhood; the effects of culture, ethnicity, major life events; and genetic and disease-related issues. The next area discusses outcomes of 30 specific clinical entities, such as recurrent pain syndromes, substance abuse, violence, eating disorders, school maladaptation, various developmental and behavioral disorders, and major psychiatric disturbances. Third is a useful discussion of many of the tools needed to function in this discipline, such as interview techniques and methods of screening, testing, and assessing children's development. Finally, there are interventions, such as counseling techniques and various therapies, including psychopharmacology, as well as tips on making referrals.

This multiauthored book is consistent in style and organization, but the readability and clinical orientation of the chapters vary, with some more theoretical than others. In general, the book design allows the clinician to refer to specific topics quickly and find useful management information. Boxes and bulleted points often summarize the role of the physician in specific management situations. The sections tend to be thorough, yet concise,

with many clinical case examples and liberal use of charts and tables. Not only do chapters have references for further reading, but some list books to recommend to parents and patients as well. One editor, Dr Levine, a recognized authority on learning disorders, has contributed three chapters on this subject in which he describes the many different entities lumped under this heading and provides detailed guides for helping students with the various conditions.

The editors state a dual mission of providing a definitive reference work for subspecialists in developmental-behavioral pediatrics and a guide to generalists who want to foster optimal behavioral adjustment and development in all children. They seem to have amply succeeded. The additions to this third edition include an update on pharmacology and new sections on emergencies, motor coordination weaknesses, and so-called "unpopular" children. For any clinician who deals with the developmental and behavioral problems of children, this reference is most helpful.

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**Conn's Current Therapy 1999: Latest Approved Methods of Treatment for the Practicing Physician.** Edited by Robert E. Rakel. 1340 pp, illustrated. Philadelphia, WB Saunders, 1999. \$59 (paper). ISBN 0-7216-7224-8.

This 51st edition, true to its predecessors, is an excellent resource for any provider. Eighty-five percent of the chapters in this edition are written by new authors, and 15% of the chapters have been updated from the last edition. New topics include cat-scratch disease, cystic fibrosis, trypanosomiasis, and inflammatory bowel disease. Once again, this text accomplishes its intent to "focus on problems frequently encountered in practice and those less common conditions that could have serious consequences. . ." and to provide "up-to-date information on recent advances in medicine in a concise. . . manner."

This edition maintains the successful format implemented in previous editions. The book is divided into 18 sections: 10 on organ systems, 1 on a symptom-oriented approach, 2 on infectious diseases, and 1 each devoted to obstetrics and gynecology (including neonatal resuscitation and care of the high-risk neonate), allergy, psychiatric disorders, and physical and chemical injuries. There are 295 chapters, and the reader can still depend on thorough yet concise coverage of all the topics. Each chapter contains readily accessible and easy-to-use quick-reference tables or algorithms that contain valuable information the busy practitioner can use without wasting valuable time reading through the extraneous content common in other textbooks. The layout of the index is well thought out and user friendly. In addition, the appendix has an exhaustive yet helpful section on normal laboratory values.

I have a few criticisms with this edition. Every chapter lacks references for the evidence-based data the authors use to validate their approach. The editor encourages the

reader "to compare the treatments presented in previous editions. . ." with the treatment approaches presented in the present edition "to see how different experts manage the same problem." Unfortunately, this pursuit can lead to treatment strategy bias. The editor has included "full institutional affiliation of each contributor. . . if additional information or follow-up is needed" by the reader. Such an approach could dishearten those readers who are looking for a more evidence-based approach to evaluation and treatment.

Second, the section on skin and nail disorders is still lacking graphics. This section could be strengthened by the addition of photographs (black and white, or color plates) to enhance the readers' recognition of these conditions.

Lastly, I wonder whether it is possible for one text to "be all" for every discipline in medicine. I believe that most of the chapters on medicine do meet this expectation, but some fall short and are weak. This failing is most evident with the obstetrics section.

Despite these shortcomings, I must admit that I continue to love this reference text and would recommend it to busy practitioners who want the answers to their questions at their fingertips. This is the book I would want if I were stranded on a deserted island (and still had to practice medicine!). No medical library should be without it.

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**AIDS Therapy.** By Raphael Dolin, Henry Masur, and Michael Saag. 884 pp. Philadelphia, Churchill Livingstone, 1999. \$150. ISBN 0-443-07592-1.

The rapid evolution of therapies for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) make the writing of a textbook on these topics a formidable task. It is a certainty that any book will be out of date before it can be published simply because the publishing process takes a long time. *AIDS Therapy*, succeeds, however, because of its format and the quality of its contributors. The contributors are clearly expert and primary investigators in the areas about which they are writing.

Antiretroviral therapy is well covered by an authoritative chapter on each currently approved antiretroviral medication. The section on antiretroviral treatment strategy suffers somewhat from the rapid evolution of practice, lacking for instance the latest data on the value of resistance testing, but it remains an excellent review of the fundamental theories driving current approaches. The sections on specific opportunistic processes and approaches to clinical syndromes are of high quality and include well-designed and useful algorithms. The editors have paid special attention to the pharmacologic aspects of the treatment of HIV infection, including strong sections on drug administration and serious interactions of both antiretroviral drugs and other AIDS-related medications.

The most conspicuous shortcomings result from new information. Studies regarding the usefulness of resis-