

**Minor Emergencies: Splinters to Fractures.** By Philip Butt-aravoli and Thomas Stair. 544 pp, illustrated. St. Louis, Mosby, 2000. \$34.95 (paper). ISBN 0-323-00756-2.

It has been 15 years since the publication of the first edition, then titled *Common Simple Emergencies*. The authors again direct this second edition primarily toward practicing emergency physicians. Combining their 45 years of experience in the practice of emergency medicine, they have designed a quick reference guide for some of the commonly encountered problems in the acute setting.

There are 179 chapters divided into 11 sections according to system. The format of each chapter is consistently the same, making the information easy to access. The chapters are arranged in the following manner: presentation, what to do, what not to do, discussion, and suggested readings. Most chapters contain excellent illustrations and black-and-white photographs that complement the text. Good detailed instructions for what to do are followed up with equally well-thought-out precautions of what not to do. Key elements are highlighted in boldface type. The references at the end of each chapter provide current resources. The well-organized index is logical and uniformly reliable. The appendix also contains a good section on how to administer oral anesthesia and digital blocks.

I could find only a few minor criticisms. Initially, the title of the book might be somewhat misleading to the buyer. After scanning the topics in the Table of Contents, the reader might question the authors' definition of emergencies; approximately one third of the topics would not be recognized true minor emergencies. Rather, the topics appear to represent those nonurgent conditions that typically plague emergency departments (eg, conjunctivitis, cerumen impaction, vaginosis, diaper rash, etc). A different title might be more appropriate and less misleading, such as "Common Problems Encountered in Urgent Care Centers" or "Common Nonemergent Problems Encountered in the Emergency Department."

Some of the chapters dealing with orthopedic problems would have benefited from the inclusion of more x-ray photographs, especially in the chapters dealing with shoulder dislocations, scaphoid fractures, patellar dislocations, clavicle fractures, and finger dislocations.

Overall, I would recommend this book for any primary care provider who is interested in acute care, and every urgent care center and isolated rural clinic should have this book on its shelf. The topics discussed are typical of what providers do encounter in this setting. The book will serve as an invaluable quick reference for those who want reliable information at their fingertips.

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**Pocketbook of Orthopaedics and Fractures.** By Ronald McRae. 536 pp, illustrated. Philadelphia, Churchill Livingstone, 1999. \$32 (paper). ISBN 0-443-05952-7.

This soft-bound pocketbook, written by a British orthopedic surgeon, is a condensed version of clinical orthopedic and fractures books that have been written by the same man.

In the first 13 chapters, the author describes the orthopedic examination, divided by joint or region. A one- or two-paragraph description of common conditions by region is included in each chapter. Fractures and dislocations are discussed separately in 16 additional chapters.

One half of this book is devoted to examination techniques. There are better quick references for practicing physicians to find this information, such as *Hoppenfeld's Physical Examination of the Spine and Extremities*. Numerous line drawings depict physical signs, anatomy, and nerve function. Often these illustrations are helpful and detailed. Some, though, are overly detailed. Many illustrations have various numbers or letters with arrows pointing to particular features on a drawing, and the reader is required to search through a detailed legend to find the name of that particular structure. This effort becomes cumbersome for many of the drawings.

The information describing general principles of fracture management, including casting, splinting, complications, reduction principles, and fracture healing, is very good and provides an excellent overview of fracture care. Many of the individual fractures, however, are either those not managed by family physicians or are those requiring operative treatment. There are detailed descriptions of reduction techniques for practitioners who work in a setting where they will be doing reductions.

Overall, this book has some useful information, but a great amount of material is not pertinent to a primary care setting. Although the illustrations of physical examination techniques and fracture reduction techniques are especially useful, the evaluation, diagnosis, and management of many common orthopedic complaints encountered in a primary care setting are covered in insufficient detail.

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**Women's Health Care Handbook. Second edition.** Edited by Bruce E. Johnson, Cynda Ann Johnson, Jane L. Murray, and Barbara S. Apgar. 666 pp. Philadelphia, Hanley & Belfus, 2000. \$55 (paper). ISBN 1-56053-356-0.

In the second edition of the *Women's Health Care Handbook*, each chapter has been updated to reflect any new advances and includes additional information on non-