

ion and functions well as a reference text. If frequent follow-up editions are issued, it will remain a useful volume. I hope that the editor will consider, however, having each future chapter co-written by a primary care physician working with another specialist or subspecialist. The resulting book would likely be of greater use to family physicians.

Tom E. Norris, M.D.  
Tacoma Family Medicine  
Tacoma, WA

**Private Practice: A Guide to Getting Started.** By Jack D. McCue and Robert D. Picalora. 290 pp. Boston, Little, Brown, 1991. \$22.95 (paper). ISBN 0-316-55531-2.

As a residency program director, I spend a great deal of time each year discussing with residents their plans and concerns about getting started in private practice. Although the AAFP practice management curriculum addresses many of their questions, I have continued to feel the need for an inexpensive reference to which I could direct residents. This book fulfills that need admirably.

*Private Practice: A Guide to Getting Started* is a paperback handbook specifically oriented toward the concerns about going into private practice from the perspective of a resident physician. It is written in a somewhat chronological order, with the first part dedicated to the question of initial career decisions, such as where to practice and the evaluation of job offers. The second part is a superficial discussion of the business side of a medical practice. The authors are clearly deliberate in this approach, as they primarily emphasize the importance of "doing it right the first time" by getting help and advice from expert sources.

The last two sections address the importance of achieving an appropriate balance in the management of the personal, as well as professional, parts of a physician's life. I was particularly impressed with the chapter entitled "The Care and Feeding of a Medical Education." Here mentioned are points that should be included in every graduation address!

The authors have taken great care to make this publication entertaining as well as informative. Major points are illustrated by the use of case studies, and they are not all success stories. The organization of the book is augmented by an excellent index, and each section is followed with references for further information. The advice contained is practical, timely, and based on real-life situations.

I believe this book is a valuable guide to the risks and rewards of entering the business we know as "private practice." Its affordability and resident perspective make it a unique resource for new physicians, and I encourage its inclusion in the personal library of every resident.

Perry A. Pugno, M.D., M.P.H.  
Mercy Medical Center  
Redding, CA

**Infection Control in the Child Care Center and Preschool.** Edited by Leigh B. Donowitz. 364 pp. Baltimore, Williams & Wilkins, 1991. \$26 (paper). ISBN 0-683-02611-9.

This book is designed to serve as a concise and accessible reference for the problems of infectious and communicable diseases within the setting of preschool child care facilities. Most clinicians who care for children are aware of the frequency with which questions about communicable diseases arise and the need to provide advice about such practical issues as incubation periods, transmissibility, indications for exclusion, postexposure prophylaxis, and treatment options.

The major part of this publication deals with specific infecting organisms, listed alphabetically, and then discussed by clinical manifestations, causative agent, epidemiology, diagnosis, therapy, infectious period, and infection control. The book's many authors adhere to this format to provide consistency and readability. Each section is brief and gives only essential information without elaboration, controversy, or references. Generic topics, such as conjunctivitis and diarrhea, are not covered except as referenced by infecting agent in the index. Other chapters deal with high-risk children, such as those with immunodeficiencies, chronic heart or lung diseases, or handicaps, and another section deals with guidelines on prevention and hygiene for attendees and personnel. A useful appendix provides one-paragraph synopses of specific conditions intended to be "send-home" information for parents.

Physicians will find this book useful for its organization, which facilitates rapid access to answers on everyday questions. The nontechnical, condensed style makes the book valuable to nurses and receptionists called upon to provide telephone advice, and teachers and day-care workers will likewise find this to be a helpful and easily understood reference. Readers needing a more in-depth discussion, however, will require additional sources.

Leland J. Davis, M.D.  
University of California, San Francisco

**Managing Contraceptive Pill Patients. Sixth edition.** By Richard P. Dickey. 270 pp. Durant, OK, Essential Medical Information Systems, 1991. ISBN 0-929240-32-4.

Here is all you ever wanted to know about the pharmacology of birth control pills, and more. This pocket-sized book will be most useful as a reference, particularly for those in the process of forming their prescribing habits, i.e., residents. The potency and side effects of the various contraceptive pill formulations are organized according to four properties: their estrogenic, progestational, androgenic, and endometrial activities. This is an impossible amount to remember about each pill, so the various available pills are grouped with others of similar characteristics. By studying this reference, a practi-