

In 1983 Komaroff, et al.¹ reported that 20.5 percent of the 763 adults who presented to their clinic with a sore throat were infected with *Chlamydia trachomatis*, 10.6 percent with *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, and 9.1 percent with group A streptococcus. Since then, *Mycoplasma* and *Chlamydia* have been implicated as the etiologic agents of pharyngitis in other publications.^{2,3} These organisms are not inconsequential because they both are capable of producing pneumonia.⁴ Some authors have even incriminated *Chlamydia pneumoniae* as the etiologic agent in endocarditis⁵ and as a contributing agent in chronic coronary heart disease.⁶

We can no longer take the position that only sore throats caused by β -hemolytic streptococcus require antibiotic therapy.

Frank X. Mohaupt, M.D.
El Paso, TX

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The Best Ideal in Family Practice

To the Editor: While working as a locum tenens in a northern Minnesota town, I read Dr. Stephen's comments¹ and was struck by his observations about personal medicine being the care of a person by a person and his suggestion that when this simple but profound idea is acted out, something remarkable happens. "Both physician and patient cease to be ordinary to each other."

I was immediately reminded of an encounter of that very day. As the "fill in" doctor, I was asked to see a 63-year-old woman who "needed a refill of her Tagamet™." In response to a friendly, "How have things been going?" I learned the following:

1. Her "ulcer symptoms" had returned the past month.

2. One month ago her brother died of leukemia just 6 months after diagnosis.
3. Next week is the fifth anniversary of her husband's death, and she misses him very much.
4. The following week is the 20th anniversary of the violent death of a 20-year-old son.
5. She works at the local hospital around illness and suffering but feels uncomfortable sharing *her* suffering because "health care workers are not supposed to be sick."

The 20 minutes it took to write that Tagamet™ prescription helped us both that day. My temerity at being a "substitute doctor" was dissipated by her need for someone who would accept the responsibility for "looking after" her. For that brief time we "ceased to be ordinary to each other"—just as Dr. Stephens points out.

The opportunity to emphasize this aspect of family medicine and "model" it for medical students is rare. I saw it done with great finesse by Dr. John Stone—a cardiologist from Atlanta—when he read his poetry derived from clinical experience to first- and second-year students at the Mayo Medical School. I would particularly recommend his poem, "To a Fourteen-Year Old Girl in Labor and Delivery" in his book *The Smell of Matches*.² Medical students still need exposure to personal medicine, but it is difficult to teach.

Jo E. Anderson, M.D.
LeSueur, MN

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2. Stone J. *The smell of matches*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1972.

Books Received

Books received by The *Journal of the American Board of Family Practice* are acknowledged in this column. Those that appear to be of particular interest to our readers will be reviewed as space permits.

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: A comprehensive textbook. By Melvin Lewis (editor). 1282 pp. Baltimore, MD, Williams & Wilkins, 1991. ISBN 0-683-04954-2. \$120.

Emergency Cardiac Maneuvers: A rescuer's handbook. Second edition. By Carol E. Bartecchi. 178 pp. Durant, OK, Essential Medical Information Systems, 1991. ISBN 0-929240-15-4. \$12.95 (paper).

Ethical Dilemmas in Pediatrics: A case study approach. By Edwin N. Forman and Rosalind Ekman Ladd. 142 pp. New York, Springer-Verlag, 1991. ISBN 0-387-97454-7. \$42.

Explaining Variations in Hospital Death Rates: Randomness, severity of illness, quality of care. By Rolla Edward Park, Robert H. Brook, Jacqueline Kosecoff, Joan Keesey, Lisa V. Rubenstein, Emmett B. Keeler, Katherine L. Kahn, William H. Rogers, and Mark R. Chassin. 110 pp. Santa Monica, CA, Rand Corporation, 1991. ISBN 0-8330-1098-0. \$10 (paper).

Health Systems Research Primary Health Care: Public involvement, family medicine, epidemiology, and health economics. By Petra Bergerhoff, Dieter Lehmann, and Peter Novak (editors). 270 pp. New York, Springer-Verlag, 1991. ISBN 0-387-18426-0. \$57 (paper).

Infection in the Newborn. Volume 6. By John de Louvois and David Harvey. 176 pp. New York, Wiley-Liss Division, 1990. ISBN 0-471-92679-5. \$79.

Integrating Maternal and Child Health Services with Primary Health Care: Practical considerations. By R.H. Hart, M.A. Belsey and E. Tarimo. 92 pp. Geneva, Switzerland, World Health Organization, 1990. ISBN 92-4-156138-6. \$14.50 (paper).

Internal Medicine. Third edition. By Jay H. Stein (editor in chief), John J. Hutton, Peter O. Kohler, Robert A. O'Rourke, Herbert Y. Reynolds, Martin A. Samuels, Merle A. Sande, Jay H. Stein, Jerry S. Trier, and Nathan J. Zvaifler (section editors). 2,460 pp. Boston, Little Brown, 1990. ISBN 0-316-81230-7. \$95 (1 volume), \$125 (2 volumes).

The Johns Hopkins Handbook of In Vitro Fertilization and Assisted Reproductive Technologies. By Marian D. Damewood (editor). 183 pp. Boston, Little, Brown, 1990. ISBN 0-316-17194-8. \$30 (paper).

Manual of Clinical Problems in Internal Medicine with Annotated Key References. Fourth edition. By Jerry L. Spivak and H. Verdain Barnes. 577 pp. Boston, Little, Brown, 1990. ISBN 0-316-80738-9. \$24.50 (paper).

The Medical Clinics of North America: Urinary tract infections. Volume 75, No. 2. By Donald Kaye (guest editor). 520 pp. Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1991. ISBN 0025-7125. (Price not available.)

No Safe Place: Toxic waste, leukemia, and community action. By Phil Brown and Edwin J. Mikkelsen. 260 pp. Berkeley, CA, University of California Press, 1990. ISBN 0-520-07034-8. \$24.95.

On the Shoulders of Giants: New approaches to numeracy. By Lynn Arthur Steen (editor). 230 pp. Washington, D.C., National Academy Press, 1990. ISBN 0-309-04234-8. \$17.95.

Parkinson's Disease: A guide for patient and family. Second edition. By Roger C. Duvoisin. 206 pp. New York, Raven Press, 1991. ISBN 0-89004-904-1. \$15.50 (paper).

The Pediatric Clinics of North America: Childhood AIDS. Volume 38, No. 1. By Paul J. Edelson, (guest editor). 199 pp. Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1991. ISBN 0031-3955. (Price not available.)

Preventing and Controlling Drug Abuse. By M. Gossop and M. Grant (editors). 130 pp. Geneva, Switzerland, World Health Organization, 1990. ISBN 92-4-156134-3. \$21.60 (paper).

A Proposed Standard International Acupuncture Nomenclature. By Report of a WHO Scientific Group. 30 pp. Geneva, Switzerland, World Health Organization, 1991. ISBN 92-4-154417-1. \$8.10 (paper).

The Rational Use of Drugs in the Management of Acute Diarrhoea in Children. By World Health Organization. 71 pp. Geneva, Switzerland, World Health Organization, 1990. ISBN 92-4-156142-4. \$12.60 (paper).

Safe Sex: A guide to condoms. Second edition. By James W. Brackett. 99 pp. Durant, OK, Essential Medical Information Systems, 1991. ISBN 0-929240-25-1. \$7.95 (paper).

Straight Talk about Weight Control: Taking the pounds off and keeping them off. By Lynn J. Bennion, Edwin L. Bierman, and James M. Ferguson (editors). 368 pp. New York, Consumers Union, 1991. ISBN 0-89043-246-5. \$15.95 (paper).

Tinnitus: Diagnosis/treatment. By Abraham Shulman, Jean-Marie Aran, Juergen Tonndorf, Harold Feldmann, and Jack A. Vernon. 571 pp. Philadelphia, Lea & Febiger, 1991. ISBN 0-8121-1121-3. (Price not available.)

Ultrasonography of the Urinary Tract. Third edition. By Martin I. Resnick and Matthew D. Rifflin (editors). 502 pp. Baltimore, Williams & Wilkins, 1991. ISBN 0-683-07222-6. \$85.

WHO Model Prescribing Information—Drugs Used in Parasitic Diseases. By WHO Expert Committee. 126 pp. Geneva, Switzerland, World Health Organization, 1990. ISBN 92-4-140102-8. \$18.95 (paper).