

for the health-oriented, international traveler. It is recommended as a handy guide for patients of family physicians.

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Concise Textbook of Medicine. Second edition. Edited by Mabenur S. Kochar and Kesavan Kutty. 821 pp., illustrated. New York, Elsevier Science, 1990. ISBN 0-444-01497-7.

Kochar and Kutty present this revised edition of their original *Textbook of General Medicine* to medical students to provide them with a course of internal medicine that could "be read cover to cover during a twelve-week rotation in medicine." The editors' expressed goal is to allow the student the opportunity to "acquire knowledge in that field considered essential to graduation from a medical school."

Indeed, both the format and content of this soft-covered volume direct itself specifically to the medical student in the clinical phase of education. The opening chapter, "The Art and Science of Medicine," clearly alerts the student to current thinking in the delivery and philosophies found in medical care. The concept of primary care, effective consultations with other specialists, physician and patient obligations to health care processes, approach to the patient's family, and a discussion of medical ethics highlight this refreshingly written introduction.

Thereafter the chapters follow the time-honored divisions into medical subspecialties (pulmonary medicine, gastroenterology), with an excellent geriatric medicine section added to the newly created chapters on psychiatry, medical genetics, and alcoholism and substance abuse. A 40-page index is complete.

Somewhat unique in this text is the ending to each chapter, which has a collection of challenging questions (answers provided) reviewing the material immediately presented. Brief and current bibliographies conclude each major topic. Figures and tables are somewhat limited, although the dermatology discussion provides numerous photographs, many in color.

The book is clearly written, and students will welcome the depth presented in each clinical area, much as clinicians in practice might appreciate a leaner, manual style approach often seen on office bookshelves. Both groups, however, will acknowledge the academic quality.

A sample chapter is "Infectious Diseases." The author discusses every clinical area: virus disease, bacterial infection, fungal and parasitic disease, organ system infections (pneumonia, meningitis, infectious diarrhea), antibiotics, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, fever of undetermined origin, immunizations, and travel medicine—all covered in about 50 pages of text.

The medical student on clinical rotation and, for that matter, the clinician in general can find in this text the fundamentals of internal medicine.

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Problem-Oriented Pediatric Diagnosis. By Roger M. Barkin. 305 pp., illustrated. Boston, Little, Brown, 1990. \$22.50 (paper). ISBN 0-316-08102-7.

This book is a recent addition to a series of Spiral Manuals™ offered by this publisher in a large range of clinical disciplines. As the title suggests, the focus is a problem-solving approach to the diagnosis of pediatric problems. The organization is by organ system, and the topics are listed by clinical presentation rather than by diagnostic entities, with some 47 actual symptoms having been selected. All aspects of

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