

# Book Reviews

**Cardiac Emergency Care.** Fourth edition. By Edward K. Chung. 428 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, Lea & Febiger, 1991. \$29.95 (paper). ISBN 0-8121-1421-3.

This book is written by a well-known cardiologist with an established reputation for effective and articulate bedside teaching. The book is relevant to the family physician both in the office and the emergency department. It covers issues ranging widely from the basic understanding and treatment of common conditions, such as heart failure and digitalis intoxication, to less common but such clinically important states as Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome and the sick sinus syndrome. All subjects in the 22 chapters are dealt with logically and in a clear language, making for easy readability. The text is complemented by the liberal display of user-friendly tables, electrocardiograms, and illustrations that provide pertinent ready-to-implement information.

This book should find a place in the library of the busy practitioner. I also recommend that it be placed in family medicine residency program libraries, not only for quick reference in clinical practice but also as a source of solid theoretical principles to use when managing cardiac emergencies.

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**Cecil Textbook of Medicine.** 19th edition. Edited by James B. Wyngaarden, Lloyd H. Smith, Jr., and J. Claude Bennett. 2544 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1992. \$99. ISBN 0-7216-2928-8.

This 19th version of Cecil's textbook, a perennially popular "jumbo" internal medicine volume, announces a major revision. One-third of the book reflects changes in authors, and added now are many discussions centered about medical issues of contemporary interest.

More than 500 internal medicine topics are presented in this textbook, each in comprehensive depth and detail. The editors have divided the book into 27 traditional sections, including cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, renal diseases, and so forth. To these sections they add other subjects of current interest, such as human growth and aging, personal health care, nutrition, immune system disease, zoonoses, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and associated diseases, and occupational medicine. Each section is presented as a unit that incorporates a host of relevant topics.

A meticulous index consisting of about 100 pages coordinates the use of this text. Every imaginable disease, symptom, syndrome, medication, and laboratory test is considered.

The text itself follows a traditional format. Etiology is discussed first, followed by epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment, and prevention, as applicable. Most of the text is easy to understand and is enhanced by clear tables, graphs, and plates. The basic sciences are smoothly integrated into the discussions, especially in the case of biochemistry. Because it is extremely well organized, *Cecil* benefits greatly those who want a detailed analysis of most internal medicine subjects. To take advantage of this type of depth, the reader will need to allocate time and concentration — this manual is not designed to assist the clinician at a busy office practice.

The refreshing new areas are represented by a major effort in HIV-associated illness (70 pages) and transplant medicine, as well as excellent sections on aging, dying, and physicians' health.

It is difficult to imagine a single volume that could offer additional concentrated internal medicine interwoven with a strong basic science foundation and complemented by such innovative chapters as, *Medicine as an Art*, *Clinical Ethics*, and *Internal Medicine and Today's Internist*.

*Cecil* continues to develop in a manner highly responsive to the needs and goals of today's students and clinicians.

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**Cholesterol Treatment: User Guide to Lipid Disorder Management.** Second edition. By David A. Leaf. 181 pp. Durant, Oklahoma, Essential Medical Information Systems, 1992. \$12.95 (paper). ISBN 0-929240-44-8.

This is the second edition of this convenient little handbook on cholesterol and its clinical relevance in medical practice. Only 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  × 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches and containing 181 pages, it provides much practical information about cholesterol and its importance to coronary artery disease.

In this concisely written compendium are 28 readable chapters that include a working definition of hypercholesterolemia based on the most recent and popularly quoted prospective trials, a description of the metabolism and a determination of the various lipoprotein classes and the various dyslipidemias, and guidelines for drug therapy and the application of the commonly used lipid-lowering medications and other second-line therapeutic drug interventions, as well as commonly acknowledged