Book Reviews

Comprehensive Adolescent Health Care. *Edited by Stanford B. Friedman, Martin Fisher, and S. Kenneth Schonberg. 1190 pp., illustrated. St. Louis, Quality Medical Publishing, 1992. $85. ISBN 0-942219-14-7.*

This text, as the title implies, is comprehensive, one to which you can refer for almost any question concerning adolescent care. At nearly 1200 pages, however, it hardly fits in your pocket.

Multi-authored and edited, the text is well organized into five sections: Principles of Adolescent Medicine; Medical Disorders; Psychosocial Issues; Gynecologic, Urologic and Sexual Issues; and Adolescent Surgery. The index is thorough and facilitates quick reference to the text. Individual chapters within each of the sections are generally well done and timely. For example, there are some interesting chapters in the section Psychosocial Issues that address each of the following areas: affluence, poverty, cults, and the adopted adolescent. The chapter on sports medicine, although brief, is an excellent overview. Although much of the medical information found in this text is familiar to family physicians, it is appropriately placed within the context of adolescent care. For example, the discussion on sleep disturbances describes hypersomnia as it relates to findings from a survey of adolescents. The information is as current as any textbook.

Although I found this text useful, I doubt the intended audience is the practicing family physician. Most of its information can be obtained from other references family physicians would have available, which might not be true for pediatricians or general internists, who would find adolescents at the boundaries of their practice profile.

There are areas of deficiencies in this text. Orthopedics and obstetrics are not covered, and the chapter on dermatology is inappropriately focused. Rather than try to give an overview of all dermatology, I would have preferred to see much more discussion of conditions common to the adolescent age group, such as acne. Most family physicians would have a more comprehensive general dermatologic reference text.

Whether an individual physician should purchase this text depends on the number of adolescents in that physician's practice and the style of reference preferred. This text is a worthwhile purchase, and I would recommend it for a family medicine program, a group practice, or a hospital library. The price is typical for this class of book.

Valerie J. Gilchrist, MD
Canton, OH

Differential Diagnosis of Common Complaints. Second edition. *By Robert H. Seller. 416 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1993. $27.50 (paper). ISBN 0-7216-3327-7.*

The second edition of this wonderfully written book is intended to help physicians focus on the diagnosis of the most common complaints seen in primary care. In the first edition there were 31 complaints covered. This edition addresses 34, which according to the author account for more than 80 percent of the chief complaints with which physicians are confronted in their office practices. The book is certainly not intended to review the possible diagnoses in any detail, but they are discussed adequately.

Each chapter has an introduction describing the most common causes of the symptom or problem, as well as the nature or characteristics of the patient, and pointing out those conditions that are most likely to occur in a particular age group or with an underlying chronic problem. The author describes the nature of the symptom or problem itself, including its special characteristics of presentation, duration, and timing. There is an informative discussion of associated symptoms precipitating and aggravating the problem, as well as ameliorating factors, physical findings, diagnostic studies, and less common diagnostic considerations. There is no purposeful discussion, however, of management or treatment, which is frustrating; I was left with a need to know more about the problem. This omission unfortunately makes the book somewhat less useful. Selected references are provided with each chapter. A unique characteristic of the book is the summary table that is located at the end of each chapter, listing the salient diagnostic features of the most common clinical entities that might cause a particular complaint.

This book is geared to the student, resident, and practitioner, as it is oriented toward a broad overview of patient care. It is particularly relevant for the physician in primary care, and I am comfortable in recommending it.

Nikitas J. Zervanos, MD
Lancaster General Hospital
Lancaster, PA

Emergency Procedures. *Edited by Michael S. Jastremski, Marc Dumas, and Lisa Penalver. 470 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1992. $42. ISBN 0-7216-5127-5.*

Regardless of the clinical setting, family physicians are often called upon to perform emergency or semi-

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