

their indications, contraindications, and dosages, as well as side effects. Even though the index is brief, it is clearly effective.

Although the full range of cardiac physiology, anatomy, and pathophysiology is addressed early in the text, the primary emphasis of the book is on clinical cardiology. The sections reviewing cardiac emergencies, dysrhythmias, and hypertension proved exceptionally helpful with their concise and factual presentations. An outstanding example is the discussion on the identification and treatment of tachyarrhythmias, which have always been somewhat perplexing in the acute clinical situation. Other topics covered that are worthy of praise include radiologic investigations, coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, and systemic diseases and the heart.

Lipids and the dyslipidemia syndromes are discussed briefly and are accompanied by a succinct summary table. It is refreshing to find a presentation of cholesterol screening that uses logic rather than emotion in the selection of candidates for screening and treatment. The section describing emergencies is quickly navigated and presents pointed information rapidly. Angioplasty, radionuclide studies, and acute thrombolytic therapy have updated presentations, and by the end of this book I felt I had assimilated a sweeping picture of contemporary cardiology.

The risk of such a concise and well-organized brief review is, of course, oversimplification. This is not a problem for the audience interested in the basics of clinical cardiology or in a quick reference for emergency cardiac care.

The student of medicine and the generalist interested in a rapid review of the fundamentals of cardiology (the book can be read in its entirety in several hours) make up the ideal audience for *Cardiology*. Others, including nurses and physicians' assistants involved in the care of patients with cardiovascular diseases, will also find this text to be an excellent overview.

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**Conn's Current Therapy 1993.** Edited by Robert E. Rakel. 1312 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1993. \$55. ISBN 0-7216-6745-7.

I like a reference text to be accurate, accessible, and reasonably priced. *Conn's Current Therapy 1993* fulfills all those criteria. Although it is hard to imagine any textbook being the perfect reference for the busy practicing family physician, this one certainly covers much of what is encountered in everyday practice.

Rakel's text is relatively comprehensive without being overwhelming. There are 18 major sections, each of which has between 2 and 28 chapters. Although I expected the sections presenting infectious disease, cardiovascular system, and metabolic disorders, for example, I was pleased to find sections on obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatric disorders, and

physical and chemical injuries. These additions broaden the content well beyond the standard medical reference text. Nevertheless, the text maintains its roots in medicine. Leprosy is covered in 5 pages, whereas dysfunctional uterine bleeding is covered in 2 pages. There is no section on pediatrics or orthopedics.

Individual chapters are well organized, timely, and, in general, concise. A brief review of pertinent pathophysiology accompanies each chapter, and the tables scattered throughout each chapter are superb. A convenient table of reference values, in both conventional and SI units, for commonly used laboratory tests is provided inside the front cover. The chapter that addresses management of the patient with HIV and the 4 pages on premenstrual syndrome are outstanding.

While preparing this review, I left my copy with an explanatory note in our precepting room. The book was used by both supervising faculty and residents, and the universal opinion was that we should purchase a copy. Several outside preceptors mentioned that they were going to order a copy for their offices. Every practicing family physician would find this text useful.

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**Dermatology, Volumes 1 and 2. Third edition.** Edited by Samuel L. Moschella and Harry J. Hurley. 2784 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1992. \$295. ISBN 0-7216-3263-7.

Moschella and Hurley have recently edited the third edition of *Dermatology*, a two-volume set of almost 3000 pages. The scope of the book is such that every common and most uncommon conditions are addressed. In addition, there is a nice section on dermatologic surgery.

As with any text prepared for the practicing subspecialist, several sections of the book are less relevant to generalist practice. The detail on some of the rarer diseases and more specialized procedures is less helpful for day-to-day care. Other chapters, however, such as those on mucocutaneous manifestations of HIV disease and atopic dermatitis and other eczemas, are well written with helpful material on the differential diagnosis and treatment.

The chapter on dermatologic surgery is well organized and well written and teaches much about the range of dermatologic procedures. Sections on wound healing and dressings, surgery of the nail, and cosmetic surgery are all helpful. Even though many of the procedures, such as liposuction, hair transplants, and collagen injection would not be performed by most family physicians, the information provides a good reference for advising and assisting patients considering such a procedure who come to their family physician and ask for advice.

These volumes do have one major drawback for practicing physicians. Although the organization and readability are excellent, dermatology is primarily a