

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

visual field, and this effort is sorely lacking in illustrations. Overall, an adequate number of illustrations accompany the text; however, in the section describing viral exanthems, not a single photograph, black-and-white or color, of a rash is to be found. The only color illustrations in the entire two volumes are a set of unreferenced plates at the end of the chapter on clinical diagnosis. These plates are inadequate and poorly organized. Two different sets of figures are often listed on the same page without references to the appropriate chapters of the text.

For those who love reference books, belong to large practices, or practice in teaching sites, or for family physicians who have an active dermatologic practice, this book would serve as a useful addition to a library containing several other dermatology texts including atlases and more focused general dermatology texts. Otherwise, the cost, size, and especially the lack of color illustrations make this reference less than ideal for the average family physician.

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The Making of a Doctor: Medical Education in Theory and Practice. By R.S. Downie, Bruce Charlton, K.G. Calman, and James McCormick. 203 pp. New York, Oxford University Press, 1992. \$49.95. ISBN 0-19-262136-X.

The authors state in the Preface that "the book takes a broad perspective in order to examine the moral, philosophical, and historical underpinnings of medical education. . . . Our overriding objective throughout is to suggest that it is both desirable and possible to put education back into medical training." In the first chapter, they state the following problems of medical education: selecting appropriate individuals to be physicians, helping students to become educated into society rather than being allowed to learn material only for the purpose of passing examinations, improving training at the graduate level to keep physicians from becoming distorted in their view of what the public needs, and improving continuing education to make it more relevant to the educational deficiencies of practicing physicians.

Throughout the book the authors trace historical reasons behind the evolution of present-day medical education, but they write from the perspective of medical education in the United Kingdom, going back to the Society of Apothecaries, which was founded in 1615. They also note the establishment of the Company of Surgeons in 1745, which became the Royal College in 1800. Although some information is of interest, the United States reader would not be particularly concerned about the establishment of the UK General Medical Council or about its problems keeping young physicians in a junior role for a prolonged time before they obtain consultant positions.

Each chapter is introduced with vignettes of imaginary cases that describe some problem to be dis-

cussed in ensuing pages. As is usual, the cases are extreme to make the point. At the end of each chapter the authors state their conclusions in enumerated sentences. This style helps to crystallize the points made throughout the chapter. Again, the vignettes and solutions are idiosyncratic to the British educational and health care delivery systems.

Many outcomes described in this book will be familiar to family medicine educators. We want all physicians to practice community-oriented medicine and to utilize the health care team for their patients. We expect our physicians to be educated, not just trained in the skills of surgical procedures. We enthusiastically support choosing applicants for medical school who are patient care oriented rather than interested in medicine for scientific pursuits. All physicians should have high moral and ethical values, and they should continue to be educated throughout their careers for good patient care.

Some difficulties the authors see in the British medical education system are not as evident in the United States. Most US medical schools choose their students after 4 years of university studies; therefore, the applicants have a broad general education that encompasses more than science subjects. Many medical schools in the US have accepted the challenge of developing a more flexible curriculum to cope with information overload. Our graduate programs prepare generalists and specialists to enter the health care system at the completion of their training, so they do not need to assume junior positions in the health care system before taking their definitive role in society. So far our health care system has been able to absorb the numbers of physicians completing their training, but we know our system is providing too many specialists and not enough generalists for accessible health care.

No system of medical education is ideal. Those who want to learn about the problems in the United Kingdom and the authors' suggestions for improving their system will find this book interesting, as many of their problems are relevant to medical education in the United States.

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Office Gynecology. Fourth edition. Edited by Robert H. Glass. 431 pp., illustrated. Baltimore, Williams & Wilkins, 1993. \$75. ISBN 0-683-03546-0.

Women's health care is emerging as one of the hot topics for medicine in the 1990s. There have been calls for the creation of a new specialist for women's health. For those of us in family medicine, our discipline would appear to offer the greatest breadth and depth to address the multitude of health issues facing women of all ages. To provide this service, the family physician needs a thorough knowledge of women's