

health issues including the latest advances in diagnosis and treatment. This fourth edition of *Office Gynecology*, edited by Robert H. Glass, is a valuable source of such information.

As little attention is given to surgical techniques and gynecologic specialty issues, the audience for this book is clearly the office-based practitioner. At just more than 400 pages, this book is meant to be read rather than be used as a reference text. A well-organized table of contents and a thorough index provide easy access to specific topics.

Common subjects, e.g., sexually transmitted diseases, contraception, urinary tract infections, amenorrhea, and dysfunctional uterine bleeding, are well covered. Newer topics include a brief discussion of human immunodeficiency virus infection in women and a detailed description of Norplant usage. In addition, human papillomavirus infections and colposcopy technique, as well as cryosurgery, carbon dioxide laser, and loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP) treatment modalities, are given ample attention.

Areas of particular interest to the family physician are sex counseling in office practice, including male sexual dysfunction; infertility, including in vitro fertilization technique; and management of the postmenopausal woman, including a discussion of osteoporosis and estrogen usage. An especially useful discussion of premenstrual tension syndrome (PMS) covers biologic and behavioral aspects and addresses various treatment options. Breast diseases and pelvic pain are also useful topics well covered.

Illustrations are used judiciously and add to the clarity of topics. Although several colposcopy photographs appear in the text, the unfortunate limitations of printing in black and white detract somewhat from their usefulness.

Perhaps my only disappointment was the brevity of the discussion of women and AIDS. The intent of this book is to offer breadth with a reasonable amount of depth, however, and the authors have provided us with a readable and informative text that will be a valuable asset to any health provider who cares for women.

D. Michael Baxter, MD
Reading, PA

Practice of Geriatrics. Second edition. Edited by Evan Calkins, Amasa B. Ford, and Paul R. Katz. 632 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1992. \$75. ISBN 0-7216-3517-2.

The size of this book falls between the smaller textbooks of geriatrics and large compendia. Its 55 chapters address most of the major issues in geriatric medicine that are crucial to family physicians, and many chapters are written by noted authors in the field of geriatrics. The book is well edited and contains various tables and figures (fewer than I would like), and its chapters are readable, though use of case materials would make them less dry. As is true in most edited volumes, the quality of the chapters is

somewhat uneven. My favorite is an excellent review of musculoskeletal diseases in the elderly by Evan Calkins. I would recommend that chapter as required reading for all family practice residents. At the opposite end of the scale is a chapter on preventive assessment; some of its recommendations do not seem clinically relevant — e.g., is it realistic to recommend no prostate examinations after the age of 75 years?

In comparing this edition with the first, I found some chapters have received more thorough updating than others, and in my opinion one of the better chapters in the first edition, which discussed paranoia, has been dropped. This point is relatively minor, however, for the book remains an excellent one.

The book is really more suitable as a reference than as a text for family practice residents on geriatric rotations. It does not emphasize practical aspects of assessment and treatment sufficiently to be a basic text; however, its comprehensiveness makes it an excellent resource when a resident or faculty member wants an introduction to nearly any topic in geriatrics. The book's many strengths (comprehensiveness, quality of authors, and overall readability) are such that I would recommend it for the library of any family practice residency and, in fact, for the personal library of any family physician who has an interest in geriatric medicine.

Philip D. Sloane, MD, MPH
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill

Primary Care. Cancer: Epidemiology, Prevention and Screening. Clinics in Office Practice, Volume 19, No. 3. Edited by Arthur H. Herold. 237 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1992. \$27. ISBN 0095-4543.

This issue of *Primary Care* is the first of two publications on cancer topics relevant to primary care physicians. Cancer is currently the second leading cause of death in America. It is projected to be the first leading cause of death in the twenty-first century. Understanding the principles of prevention and screening are important, therefore, to every physician.

This book is divided into 14 chapters. The first two chapters review the epidemiology of cancer in the United States and the particular problems of cancer in socioeconomically disadvantaged populations. Geriatric oncology is discussed in a separate chapter. The chapter on principles of screening is well written and organized; however, it lacks any mention of likelihood ratios, receiver operating characteristic curves, or probability theories in screening. Other general chapters include discussion of barriers to and incentives for screening and risk factors for cancer. The importance of nutrition and prevention is addressed in a separate chapter. The remaining portion of the text provides techniques, results of and recommendations for screening skin, breast, cervical, gynecologic, colorectal, and prostate cancers.

The organization of this book allows easy reference to the condition about which the reader wants to

learn. Tables and illustrations are generally excellent, abundant, and relevant to the topic discussed. There are few chapters lacking any tables or illustrations. A summary table of the different recommendations for screening of cancer would be informative.

This very practical issue of *Primary Care* merits a place in the office of every primary care physician in addition to that of the specialist.

A. Abyad, MD, MPH
New York, NY

Primary Care. Cancer: Diagnosis and Treatment. *Clinics in Office Practice, Volume 19, No. 4. Edited by Arthur H. Herold. 258 pp., illustrated. Philadelphia, W.B. Saunders, 1992. \$27. ISBN 0095-4543.*

This issue is the second of two publications on cancer topics relevant to primary care physicians. Every physician will be involved directly or indirectly in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer for some patients. Knowledge of the principles of diagnosis and the different issues involved in treatment decisions are important for a successful practice.

This book is again divided into 14 chapters. It begins appropriately with the most difficult topic in cancer management: disclosure of the diagnosis of cancer. The six chapters that follow deal with the roles of different specialties in diagnosis, the usefulness of tumor markers, and paraneoplastic syndromes and occult cancer. The second part of the book reviews different issues in treatment, including ethical decisions, the management of cancer pain, and the important but neglected issue of cancer survivors. The final two chapters address leukemia and solid cancer in children.

Although this text has fewer illustrations and tables compared with the earlier one, the quality of illustrations and tables is excellent, and they are relevant to the topics discussed. References are up-to-date and appropriate. An important topic to primary care physicians that was not addressed in this book is the use of alternative medicine in cancer.

This book is an important resource on diagnosis and treatment of cancer for every primary care physician, and it merits a place in every department of family medicine and internal medicine.

A. Abyad, MD, MPH
New York, NY