sections do have a table of contents, and there is a complete index as well. As an extra bonus, the front and back inner covers contain algorithms for bradycardia, asystole and cardiac arrest, drugs for advanced life support, and a guide to postresuscitation care.

In summary, this pocket or desk reference is for the clinician who is involved in the care and prescribing of medication for children. The drug listings are valuable as a quick reference to dosage with some brief guides as to application and precautions, while the clinical guidelines provide a listing of the choices of therapeutic agents for a given indication.

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Family Medicine: Principles and Practice has long been considered one of the major textbooks in family medicine. Since the first edition in 1978, the editors have tried to produce a text that would reflect in its contents the changes and evolution of family medicine as a specialty. In the fourth edition, Taylor, et al. provide a textbook oriented toward the family physician of the 1990s.

This textbook is now divided in three parts. Part I: Family Medicine explores the basic principles of the specialty, family systems, life cycles, patient-physician interaction, and sociocultural influences on health and health care. This section is condensed compared with earlier editions, and its contents are now more focused to provide a good guideline for residents and medical students interested in family medicine.

Part II: Family Practice has two subdivisions: (A) The Person, Family, and Community; and (B) Organs and Systems. In the first subdivision, the chapters Preventive Care, Care of the Adolescent, Care of the Elderly, Family Conflict and Violence, and Environmental and Occupational Diseases are completely comprehensive and innovative. Overall, Part II-A is easy to read, and the abundance of tables and algorithms help in orienting the reader toward a quick and useful reference. Unfortunately, during the reorganization of the contents, some topics became embedded into larger chapters, making them difficult to find. For instance, the chapters on critical emergency and surgical care, substance and alcohol abuse, and some aspects of maternal and child care (i.e., acute otitis media) are difficult to find in the Table of Contents, and some are treated superficially, too.

Part II-B: Organs and Systems offers a better organization than Part IIA for quick reference through the index, although the chapters on selected disorders do not provide a complete selection of topics, nor could I find them described in the table of contents. The chapters in this section are informative, well organized, and fairly well updated for a textbook. They provide a practical approach to commonly encountered problems in daily practice, and the graphs and tables continue to be focused and useful.

Part III: The Family Physician: Professional Practice and Health Care Delivery is described as a new addition to the textbook. In spite of the effort the authors put into trying to make this section reflect the transitions that primary care is experiencing, the physician who needs information on these topics will find that specialized journals or consultants are a better resource.

In summary, Family Medicine: Principles and Practice is a comprehensive overview of basic principles and disease prevention in family medicine, as well as commonly encountered problems in an outpatient setting. It is well suited for students and residents interested in family medicine. For the more experienced clinician, it is a worthwhile investment, but it cannot be viewed as a quick reference, and it could prove to be an inadequate source to review individual topics in detail.

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The 5-Minute Clinical Consult (Consult) is an unusual and interesting book. This 2620-g, unillustrated, hardcover tome contains approximately 550 expanded topics. Each alphabetically arranged topic is presented on two facing pages in six columns with six sequential sections entitled Basics, Diagnosis, Treatment, Medications, Followup, and Miscellaneous. When possible, each section begins at the top of the next column. Each section has a typical sequence of subheadings. For example, Basics usually contains description, system(s) affected, genetics, incidence in USA, prevalence in USA, predominant age, predominant sex, signs and symptoms, causes, and risk factors. Following the expanded topics, Consult contains an additional 450 brief topics. Set in smaller print, these brief topics contain only a couple of the major headings most pertinent to the specific illness and average nine topics per three-column page.

The major topics are far-reaching, including obstetric (e.g., spontaneous abortion, abruptio placenta, breech birth), gynecologic (amenorrhea, cervicitis), dermatologic (alopecia, scabies, sporotrichosis, herpes zoster), musculoskeletal, rheumatologic, cardiovascular, infectious, metabolic, ophthalmologic, neurologic, urologic, psychiatric, hematologic, and neoplastic, and some are difficult to classify (teething).

The structured format is a strength but is incompletely exploited, and sometimes it is a handicap. I applaud the editors for including the subheading patient education under Treatment. This subsection often lists useful information and sources for preassessed patient pamphlets; however, this subsection too often says N/A or banally advises "explanation and reassurance." Some