

taining chapters on organ-specific disorders. Most chapters are arranged in an easy-to-read format and include excellent tables that are practical and easy to reference. This feature is especially helpful when you need only a quick reminder. Some (but not all) chapters include useful algorithms that are equally helpful for quick referencing. Each chapter concludes with updated references for more in-depth reading. The illustrations are rendered in impressive detail and even include some excellent surgical illustrations. The index is reliable and easy to use, and the layout makes a quick search possible.

The substantial amount of information on every possible gastroenterology topic you can imagine in itself is a shortcoming. There is simply too much information for any busy primary care physician to use routinely in practice. Furthermore, all the authors did not use the same format or present their information in an accessible and user-friendly manner (eg, easy-to-reference tables, algorithms, illustrations, etc). My only surprise was not finding a chapter devoted entirely to colon carcinoma, although there appears to be good information on other benign tumors and cancer in all of the other sections.

The editor indicates that this book provides "...treatment protocols used by the experts...[that] will direct the physician to the most efficient therapy...and in the era of cost containment...also the least expensive." Certainly, for managed care such a resource would be invaluable. Philosophically, the editor has the right idea; unfortunately, the book falls short. One only has to look at some of the diagnostic strategies recommended for several disorders (eg, workup for malabsorption, chronic diarrhea, or fecal incontinence) to realize why.

Overall, this text is an excellent reference for any primary care physician or gastroenterologist who is looking for an in-depth review of gastroenterology topics, and would lend itself well to medical libraries located in residency programs, community hospitals, and large group practices. It offers too much informa-

tion for any single provider unless he or she has a special interest in gastroenterology. Dr. Snape does accomplish his goal of developing an excellent text review that can fill the niche between "...multivolume encyclopedic reviews..." and the "how-to" manuals of treatment.

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**Practical Orthopedics. Fourth Edition.** By Lonnie R. Mercier, Fred J. Pettit, Dean F. Tamisiea, and John T. Heieck. 512 pp., illustrated. St. Louis. Mosby-Year Book, 1966. \$69.95 (paper). ISBN 0-8151-5903-X.

This edition of *Practical Orthopedics* follows three successful previous publications. Aimed at students, residents, and physicians whose fields are outside orthopedics, it addresses problems that are commonly encountered in primary care. There are two general sections, the first dealing with musculoskeletal disorders by anatomic region, and the second dealing with arthritides, infections, and injuries. Radiological imaging is nicely covered, as is sports medicine. This book certainly meets its stated objectives.

The material covered is certainly relevant in family practice. The most common, as well as the unusual, conditions are discussed. The writing is clear and concise, and is sufficiently detailed to address differential diagnosis and treatment. The material is nicely organized and falls into the pattern of problem solving that most of us have found effective. The illustrations are particularly well done and helpful, as are the photographs and reproductions of radiographs.

The audiences best served by this book are family physicians and other primary care physicians as well as residents and interns. I am enthusiastic about this book.

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