



**Clinical Simulations — Selected Problems in Patient Management.** Edited by C. H. McGuire and L. M. Solomon. Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, 1973, 324 pp., \$12.00.

This interesting and challenging book consists of 20 simulated clinical problems. It would be of value to medical students, residents, and practicing physicians. It has a format similar to that used for patient management problems in Part III of the examination prepared by the National Board of Medical Examiners and the last part of the examination of the American Board of Family Practice. However, the format is somewhat more sophisticated in that the participant is given more options to consider in the development of the history, physical examination, laboratory evaluation, and therapy. He is expected to select, from a large array of items, those that would be most appropriate in reaching a diagnosis or carrying out treatment.

The twenty simulated problems are well chosen and cover a wide variety of common problems such as the pale, lethargic child, the acute abdomen, low back pain, and the pregnant diabetic. Some of the problems posed by these simulated patients stress interpretive skills, others management skills; some focus on diagnosis, others on therapy; in some the critical issues are whether and when to intervene surgically, in others, when to delay and when to act promptly. At the conclusion of each problem, the reader is directed to the appropriate appendix, which contains an explanatory comment and the consultants' advice regarding the management of the patient. This is a particularly valuable section.

It should be noted that instead of the erasure technique utilized in most patient management problems, the reader is provided with a special felt-tipped marker that brings out the underlying material. For those of us who have used the erasure technique,

this provides a welcome advance. My own criticism of the book is the fact that when the reader selects certain diagnostic tests, he is given a photograph when possible. This is appropriate for such tests as electrocardiograms and x-rays, but many readers have no experience in interpreting bone marrow slides and will depend on the pathologist for this. The inclusion of normal values would also be helpful. However, this book is extremely well done and is a valuable addition to the field of self-assessment.

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**Introduction to Hematology.** Samuel I. Rapaport. Harper and Row, Publishers, Hagerstown, Maryland, 1971, 403 pp., \$10.50.

This book is an attempt by a hematologist to write a paperbound, concise, comprehensive, introductory work that can be used by non-hematologists and contains the essentials for the understanding of diseases in the field of hematology. Because of the limited scope of this field in the practice of most physicians, this would prove a valuable reference tool for reading up on specific cases. It goes into considerable detail regarding the background of selected disorders including those commonly seen in practice, such as iron deficiency anemias, megaloblastic anemias, hemolytic anemias and polycythaemias. In dealing with each disease entity, the hematologic origin of the disease is stressed, manifestations and treatment are discussed, and prevention is described in some instances.

The book is well printed and easy on the eyes, but the content and factual material make it difficult reading. It is most useful in selecting specific items and then reading a concise account of that problem as the occasion arises. The book suffers from black and white illustration which

does not allow for ready color differentiation which would have added to the reader's understanding of some of the diseases illustrated.

This book certainly will be a help to students and residents in hematology and should provide a reference to practicing family physicians who wish to have more knowledge in this field. It should prove an aid to those laboratory workers who wish to gain more clinical and background knowledge concerning the tests they are performing. It is not the sort of book one can pick up and read quickly from cover to cover, but it contains concise, accurate knowledge for the concerned doctor with an interesting case in hematology.

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**Biological Principles and Modern Practice of Obstetrics.** J. P. Greenhill and E. A. Friedman. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1974, 837 pp., \$23.00.

This book is a completely rewritten version of the long-used DeLee-Greenhill textbook on obstetrics. It is written by two very well-known and capable authors and has excellent readability.

It is particularly good for the family physician as it treats the subject as a continuum of education to include physiology and prenatal, fetal, and neonatal aspects with all their interrelationships. The textbook is concise, organized, and adequately illustrated. Perhaps it does not deal in enough depth in some areas, but it provides up-to-date and comprehensive coverage of the field of obstetrics and related subjects. The sections on modern diagnostic techniques and fetal monitoring are well-done and timely.

The philosophy of obstetrics registered in the introduction should appeal to the modern family physician. The book is written so that it may be used in undergraduate and graduate education and serve as an excellent addition to the practicing physician's library. The table of contents, index and bold print headings make the book very desirable for fast reference.

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**Humanism in Medicine.** Edited by John P. McGovern and Chester R. Burns. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1974, 128 pp., \$9.75.

The stated purposes of this book are to answer the questions as to "Why William Osler is revered as a medical humanist; what manifestations of humanism can be found in the history of medicine; and whether humanism has a place in the construction of goals and priorities in the medicine of today." The book is a collection of thirteen essays. The title of the book appears to be a misnomer. A few of the essays do indeed address the issues of humanism in medicine. Most, however, are more focused on the history of medicine and particularly on the life of Dr. Osler. Many of these attempt to demonstrate the "humanism" of Dr. Osler, but with variable success.

This book should be of interest to the reader with a casual interest in medical history, but is not sufficiently detailed for the true historian or Oslerian. For those who are interested in humanism in medical education, the last two essays are genuinely helpful.

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**Treatment and Management of Obesity.** Edited by George A. Bray and John E. Bethune. Harper and Row, Publishers, Hagerstown, Maryland, 1974, 149 pp., \$5.95.

More a large pamphlet than a book, easily read in a few hours (in spite of its numerous typographical errors), this little gem of a treatise is "must" reading for all family physicians and students of family practice. It contains the pooled, current knowledge on the problems of obesity by ten experts in obesity and endocrinology. It was originally offered as a postgraduate course by the University of Southern California in 1972 entitled "The Obese and Their Ills." One of the unabashed purposes of printing this volume was to offset the current spate of bogus diet information available to the general public. It contains all of the latest information — from theories regarding number and size of fat cells to ileo-jejunal bypass surgery for massive obesity.

There is no question that the most

interesting section of the book is the first, entitled "Pathophysiology of Obesity." It contains an excellent and easily understood section on fuel metabolism, a lucid discussion of the new theories on the cellularity of adipose tissue, and a particularly fascinating section entitled "Starvation and the Behavior of the Obese." A somewhat jarring note is struck by the fact that much of the important experimental work was done on human, prison "volunteers" who were, in essence, force-fed. Nevertheless, this section should prove extremely valuable, particularly to the practitioner whose basic biochemistry is like a soft echo down the long chamber of time.

The final two sections can be completely understood only in the light of the first section. They deal with the clinical aspects of obesity and the newer approaches to the treatment of obesity. After the wealth of new material contained in the first section, these final sections are disappointing and not as helpful to the practicing family physician. In fact, I suspect that many of the chapters could have contained more useful data and been better written by any of a number of experienced, observant family physicians. Particularly disappointing was the chapter on behavior modification which was filled with data relating to the success of this mode of therapy, but barely outlined the procedure itself. It was as if the authors were fearful of letting others in on their "secret."

No one who is involved in the treatment of the obese patient should attempt further management without reading this booklet. At best, it will alter the physician's attitude towards the obese patient. Failing that, it will make one fully aware of why one's therapeutic efforts in the past have been so unsuccessful.

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**Manpower Issues and Voluntary Regulation in the Medical Specialty System.** Herbert J. Lerner. Prodist, New York, 1974, 188 pp., \$5.95.

This is a compact 188-page paperback in which the status of each of the 22 specialties is discussed as of 1974 in relation to numbers available, geographic distribution, foreign medical

graduates, where training is provided, and future plans for the specialty. The book has an excellent section on the historical development of graduate education. A section on "The Elements of a New System" gives a capsule picture of the various organizations which affect graduate medical education. This fine book is very well-arranged and readable. Although not dealing specifically with family practice, every academic department should have a copy in its library.

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### Correction

In the article by Alan H. Johnson and C. William Wimberly entitled "Comparative Profiles of Residency Training and Family Practice" (*The Journal of Family Practice* 1[3/4]: 28-33, 1974) there were the following errors: on page 30, 12 lines from the bottom, reference should be made to column E, not column F. Three lines further down, the symbol should read  $\chi^2$ . On page 33 the last word of the first paragraph should be "program" rather than "problem," and seven lines further down (paragraph two), reference should be made to Table III rather than to Table V.

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

FACULTY RECRUITMENT FOR DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE. The University of California, Irvine is recruiting for assistant and associate professors of family practice to participate in the development of a new department of family medicine. Candidates should be board certified or board qualified and have experience in medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, outpatient care, and be committed to scholarship in medicine. Responsibilities would include teaching and supervision of medical students and residents in the model family practice unit. Applications from qualified candidates are welcome; minorities and women are encouraged to apply. Send curriculum vitae and references to Raymond C. Anderson, M.D., Department of Family Medicine, University of California, Irvine, California 92664 or call (714) 833-5932.

### FAMILY PRACTICE DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSON

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