

work represents a viewpoint of past practices and has, at best, only historical interest.

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**Current Therapy of Respiratory Disease—2**, ed by Reuben M. Cherniak, St. Louis, CV Mosby, 1984, 332 pp, price not given.

This book provides current and detailed information regarding the management and therapy of pulmonary diseases. The volume is not intended to cover pathophysiology or differential diagnoses, although brief discussions of these topics are sometimes included if they have direct therapeutic implications.

This second edition appears only two years after the first and includes an almost completely new group of authors, thus providing a fresh perspective. The contributors are generally recognized as experts and convey reliable, although occasionally somewhat personalized, therapeutic approaches. Chapters new to this edition include those dealing with sleep apnea, sleep disordered breathing, diagnostic techniques, and eosinophilic pneumonitis. Also new to this edition is the inclusion of a short list of references following each chapter. This addition enhances the usefulness of the book, although the authors' use of this reading list is inconsistent. Whereas most contributors cite articles which deal with complex aspects of therapy (in keeping with the intended emphasis of this volume), other authors cite more general information.

Several different chapters discuss aspects of commonly used medications (e.g., corticosteroids, theophylline preparations). This causes some unnecessary repetition which might be prevented if future editions allocated separate chapters for the major and frequently utilized classes of pharmacologic agents used in respiratory medicine.

Overall, *Current Therapy of Respiratory Medicine* is an excellent reference source for residents or pulmonary fellows. Experienced practitioners will have less need to consult this book, but will find it useful for the management of infrequently encountered disorders.

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**Diseases of the Liver and Biliary System**, 7th ed, by Sheila Sherlock, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 578 pp, \$66.50.

This is the seventh edition of a work first done by

the same author in 1955. Thus, *Diseases of the Liver and Biliary System* has virtually spanned the career of the most famous hepatologist in the world—Sheila Sherlock, who has recently retired as the head of the renowned liver unit at the Royal Free Hospital in London. The preface points out that the production of this latest work was a "drastic pruning of outmoded views and ruthless elimination of old references to make way for the new material." Thus, the same brevity is apparent as in the first edition. References are current; many are of articles published in the same year as this book.

Each of the 33 chapters is a model of incisive, pithy, and occasionally witty writing. The first six are devoted to fundamental concepts of modern hepatology, including anatomy, liver function, needle biopsy, hematologic considerations, and imaging. The next six deal with complications of liver disease, such as hepatic failure, encephalopathy, and ascites. The remainder of the book is devoted to a consideration of specific groups of liver diseases. An up-to-date chapter about liver transplantation is also provided. The quality of the drawings, graphs, and charts is excellent. Most of the radiologic images demonstrate the point of discussion quite well, although the reader not well-versed in radiology may wish for an increased use of arrows or other markers to demonstrate precisely the features being displayed.

In a book of this relatively small size, it is delightful to see that almost everything of importance in clinical hepatology is at least mentioned. A full discussion of major areas of interest is given with consummate authority. The chapters dealing with viral hepatitis and chronic active hepatitis, for example, are outstanding for their completeness and relevance. The former includes all of the traditional information about viral hepatitis, including a discussion of the newly discovered delta hepatitis. The latter gives a full discussion of therapeutic options, including the possibility that viral B chronic active hepatitis with an antibody to the e antigen may be treated successfully with corticosteroids.

By design, issues which are controversial did not receive a full discussion. For example, most of the discussion of the pathogenesis of ascites centers around relative intravascular contraction, but insufficient attention is paid to many other studies suggesting that most if not all blood spaces in cirrhotics are actually normal or overfilled. Similarly, the book suggests that a low ascitic fluid pH may be an early indicator of the presence of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, but no mention is made of subsequent opposing studies.

*Diseases of the Liver and Biliary System* is of the highest production quality, exquisitely written, and refined by the leading figure in hepatology. Anyone considering the purchase of a hepatology textbook should certainly have this one. Medical students, general practitioners, gastroenterologists, and hepatolo-

gists will all find time spent with this book extremely worthwhile.

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**Current Surgical Therapy—2**, ed by John L. Cameron, St. Louis, CV Mosby, 1986, 562 pp, price not given.

This text is the second edition of a popularly received first edition. Each author critically discusses personal views and techniques regarding the surgical treatment of a particular disease entity. As a result, a chapter may not include all available perspectives and options, and some information is duplicated in other chapters. No attempt is made to footnote and reference the material. Students and young surgeons will probably get the most out of this book.

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**Medical Oncology: Basic Principles and Clinical Management of Cancer**, ed by Paul Calabresi, Phillip Schein, and Saul A. Rosenberg, New York, Macmillan, 1985, 1576 pp, \$110.00.

Some well-recognized authors and editors have undertaken the monumental task of writing and organizing this book as a resource for a broad spectrum of medical practitioners. The result is one of the most easily readable and well-referenced textbooks in the field. A vast array of information has been included, from basic science aspects of the biology of cancer, strategies in diagnosis and treatment of specific neoplasms, to supportive care. For the most part, it is a useful guide; however, some chapters, especially those dealing with topics such as hematologic, pediatric, and infectious diseases, as well as bone marrow transplantation, are lacking in details (although more information could be found in the references cited). Also, there is not any organized discussion of cancer-screening procedures.

The material is as current as possible for any textbook. *Medical Oncology* is an excellent source for the general internist and surgeon, as well as other medical personnel.

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**Major Histocompatibility System: The Gorer Symposium**, ed by Peter Medawar and T. Lehner, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 116 pp, price not given.

This book represents the offerings of such renowned scientists as Medawar, McDevitt, Benacerraf, Batchelor, Simpson, Julia and Walter Bodmer, Trowsdale, Dausset, and van Rood in honor of Peter A. Gorer whose pioneering work led to the discovery of the first major histocompatibility system in mice about 50 years ago.

The international symposium was held in London in November 1983. As a consequence of that time lapse, the information in this monograph, although authoritative, is a bit dated. Aside from that, the chapters are individual gems. Each begins with a brief summary, a concise introduction, a readily digestible amount of hard data, and then a sort of scientific denouement. The first four chapters evaluate the structure and polymorphisms of the murine major histocompatibility system, the significance of major histocompatibility restriction, its role in immunologic enhancement, and minor transplantation antigens. The last four chapters address questions regarding the human HLA system, focusing on the molecular genetics of the HLA-D region, the involvement of HLA and disease susceptibility and resistance as studied by the new techniques of DNA restriction-length polymorphisms, the role of HLA-DRw6 in renal transplantation, and the provocative interactions between certain endorphins and HLA class I molecules relevant to the treatment of schizophrenia.

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**Lecture Notes on Clinical Medicine**, 3d ed, by David Rubenstein and David Wayne, Oxford, Blackwell Scientific, 1985, 374 pp, price not given.

This book is directed primarily at the newly graduated house officer and is oriented specifically for the type of examinations administered by the Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom. The text consists of two parts: the clinical approach and essential background information.

The clinical approach deals mainly with the cornerstone of British medical teaching—the physical examination. Instead of simply elaborating on the various techniques, this section shows how best to comply with specific requests by examiners during an actual test situation. Included are the correct ways to respond to “Examine this patient’s arms [or legs] neurologically,” “Watch this patient walk,” “Look at this patient’s face,” “Question and examine this jaundiced [or uremic] patient,” “Comment on this blood count,” etc. There is even a page and a half for “What do you