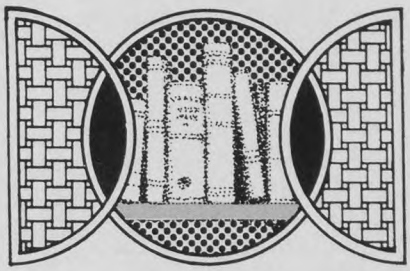
Book Reviews



would make interesting subjects for discussion groups or be useful as background for dealing with some of the behavioral aspects of many medical subjects. It is not, however, the kind of book that most would pick for leisurely reading and therefore will probably be bypassed by many.

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Lying: Moral Choice in Public and Private Life. *Sissela Bok. Vantage Books, New York, 1979, 354 pp, $10.95 (cloth), $3.95 (paper).*

Any recent review of ethical, moral, or philosophical approaches to patient care by family physician educators has used Sissela Bok as a reference. Her presentation at a Society of Teachers of Family Medicine annual meeting several years ago brought her respect and interest among family practice educators. Her ability to deal poignantly with broad ethical considerations from a physician's perspective is extremely effective. She continues in this fashion with this publication.

Her review of the subject of "lying" points out that recent philosophical or ethical writers have not dealt with lying as a subject; therefore, it is left out of those philosophical applications dealing with any area of public service. Thus, physicians, lawyers, civil servants, and even business people have not had to address the concept of lying directly; rather, they deal with it in softer terms, such as "patient information," "informed consent," or "for the good of the public or individual." These kinds of philosophical approaches have allowed many individuals to avoid a particular subject directly by such forms of deception as evasion or suppression of relevant information. In this book Bok personally explores these kinds of issues, rather than dictating conclusions to the reader as to whether lying is appropriate.

Bok draws on statements and publications from the Bible and from the writings of such philosophers as Plato, Nietzsche, Rousseau, and Kant, among others. She then applies their opinions and comments to public justification, physician-patient interaction, and even person-to-person activity. On the whole it becomes an interesting treatise on the involvement of a moral approach to the truth, or truthfulness (which is not the same thing), and how that moral approach is used consistently in life. Thus, although this is not a text that necessarily flows from one thought to another, it does have a level of consistency that is highly in-depth and at the same time far-reaching, giving it a relevance to all of human living, not just to medical practice or family medicine.

Many paragraphs or chapters

Changing Childbirth. *Diony Young. Childbirth Graphics Ltd, Rochester, New York, 1982, 516 pp, $18.95 (paper).*

This book, which is written for both professionals and families, describes and documents in detail significant ongoing changes in obstetric care. As the subtitle, "Family Birth in the Hospital," suggests, the focus is on the emotional, humanistic, and positive aspects of childbirth.

Twenty-three chapters, each with many references, cover a wide range of topics, including the philosophical advantages of family-centered maternity care, the politics of changing hospital policies, and the particulars of such clinical practices as labor position, episiotomy, electronic fetal monitoring, and newborn eye care. Recent innovations such as birthing rooms, sibling attendance at delivery, family-centered cesarean birth, and creative architectural and staffing arrangements for obstetric units are described and evaluated in detail.

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The author, a health educator, health planner, and consumer advocate, is particularly effective in the chapters discussing strategies for implementing change. She is also a professional editor with a real talent for discussing technical matters in a style that is understandable to the layman as well as interesting to the professional. The book is clear and well organized with a useful index and detailed table of contents. In an attempt to be a thorough reference, the book is often repetitive, as multiple sources are quoted at length to support the same point. There is an excellent appendix containing position papers of various national organizations, samples of hospital policies, and other documents. The text would be more readable if additional portions were transferred to the appendix.

Both students and practitioners of family medicine will have a special interest in this book as the family-centered approach, which it espouses, can best be implemented by a single physician who cares for the parents, newborn, siblings, and other generations. Because this special relationship sets the family physician apart from other providers of maternity care, *Changing Childbirth* would be a useful supplementary text for residents on an obstetrics rotation. Ironically, the author, while recognizing the important professional roles of health educators, nurses, and nurse midwives, does not note the potentially unique contribution of the family physician.

At present this book is not widely available from the usual sources of medical texts. It can be ordered directly from Childbirth Graphics, PO Box 17025, Irondequoit Division T-2, Rochester, NY 14617.

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Color Atlas of Ear Disease. *Richard A. Chole. Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, 1982, 75 pp, $38.00.*

This atlas does well at accomplishing its intent "to familiarize the physician with the physical diagnosis of the tympanic membrane and its diseases." Of the 171 illustrations included, most are views of the tympanic membrane taken with a special camera that gives a larger field of view than possible with a standard otoscope. Because of the special optics, the examples of pathologic conditions are seen more clearly than one is likely to encounter in practice. The color and resolution of the reproductions are excellent.

The topics covered include the external canal, tympanic membrane, and middle ear, and deal with normal findings, acute and chronic changes, trauma, and postoperative findings.

A brief description of important findings accompanies each illustration. Clinical data are often included, as well as occasional therapeutic recommendations, but the atlas clearly is not meant to serve as a comprehensive otologic text.

I found the book well organized, adequately indexed, and interesting to read. I think it would be a useful reference in training programs. The price may limit its applicability for individual practitioners.

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