

**Child Advocacy for the Clinician. An Approach to Child Abuse and Neglect.** Lawrence S. Wissow. Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, 1990, 242 pp, \$34.95. ISBN 0-683-09204-9.

This is a well-organized and clearly presented monograph on the subject of child abuse. It is written by a single author, with minor collaborative contributions, and presents an in-depth discussion of many facets of the problem. The emphasis is on diagnosis and identification, and specific chapters cover interviewing, the history and physical examination, and specific injuries organized by organ system or body part (eg, skeletal, genital, etc). In addition, there are chapters that deal with neglect, failure to thrive, emotional abuse, and some of the more esoteric areas such as the Munchausen by proxy syndrome and fetal maltreatment. There are guides to the reporting of suspected abuse and the area of providing legal testimony. Sections on treatment and prevention are included, but are given a relatively minor place, and may reflect a philosophy expressed as "... although the need to offer treatment is compelling, relatively little conclusive evidence is available to support its efficacy." Very little is said about one of the current approaches to this problem, namely, the establishment of multidisciplinary teams with interaction of medical, legal, and social service representatives.

The presentation is concise, and yet is fairly comprehensive and insightful in handling specific topics, revealing what appears to be extensive experience on the part of the author. The material is factual and referenced, yet there is also a pervasive tone of child advocacy that reflects an attitude as well as an approach. The text is occasionally supplemented by a chart, table, x-ray reproduction, or black-and-white photograph, but the format is primarily narrative and is easily readable.

Clinicians most likely to appreciate this book are those most directly involved in situations where the suspicion of child abuse or neglect must be

considered. This text should be available as a reference to emergency departments and ambulatory care clinics as well as to family physicians, pediatricians, orthopedists, and family counselors. Physicians in training can learn much from this book, not only about diagnosis, but about methods of interviewing families and children and about the impact that abuse and neglect has on its victims. Persons looking for guides to organizing treatment programs may find this helpful but far from complete. Overall, this is a practical, clinically oriented text that will prove useful to practitioners.

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**Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (3rd Edition).** S. Jean Herriott Emans, Donald Peter Goldstein. Little, Brown & Company, Boston, 1990, 621 pp, \$22.50 (paper). ISBN 0-316-23399-4.

This is the third edition of an outstanding paperback textbook on pediatric and adolescent gynecology. It provides a simple, forthright approach to many of the gynecologic problems presenting to the family physician. In 19 chapters, it deals with topics ranging from ambiguous genitalia in the newborn to sexual abuse.

The book is extremely readable with many straightforward and high-quality illustrations that add to the enjoyment. A particularly strong chapter is entitled "Office Evaluation of the Child and Adolescent" in which is given not only useful medical information but also tips on the actual examination of the prepubescent patient.

Given its readability and reasonable price, I believe that this textbook, in its paperback form, will be appealing not only to the medical student and family practice resident but also the primary care physician. It is

certainly recommended for any primary care physician who has a relatively large pediatric gynecologic practice.

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**Rheumatology for the House Officer.** Lourdes C. Corman, Carolyn L. Bell, N. Lawrence Edwards, Catherine C. Harmon. Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, 1990, 348 pp, \$18.95 (paper). ISBN 0-683-02143-5.

This, the 25th manual in the "House Officer" series, will be popular among house officers doing rheumatology electives. Similarly, primary care physicians who wish a one-weekend rheumatology refresher will find this 7-1/2 x 5-1/2 x 3/4-inch, 13-ounce paperback manual practical. In addition to its readability and inexpensive price, particularly noteworthy are its end-of-chapter suggested readings, which average about three per chapter and are usually very current (or classic) citations from major journals.

Most of the annoyances found in this manual were minor. Loose editing, including wordiness and colloquialisms, was frequently apparent. There were occasional typographical errors and unclear sentences. Also, in different chapters, therapeutic recommendations varied slightly. The major inconsistency, however, was the authors' recurrent inclusion of medical-student-level platitudes, while assuming that readers remember more sophisticated information such as the function of the *glenoid labrum* and the definition of *birefringence*.

The text was illustrated with line drawings, but there were parts that would have been enhanced by additional illustrations. There was also text that would have lent itself to tabular format; the pages saved could have been used for additional illustration. In the heavily illustrated chapter on joint aspiration, the quality of the illustrations and descriptions are sub-optimal. There was only one major

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error: a list purporting to summarize "relative equivalents" of corticosteroids for intra-articular injection. The list was really one of relative potencies. If interpreted literally by a neophyte, this table could lead to a 25-fold higher than recommended corticosteroid dosage; it merits a corrective insert from the publisher.

In summary, if I were allowed only one rheumatology manual in my library, it would be the Arthritis Foundation's *Primer on the Rheumatic Diseases*. *Rheumatology for the House Officer* would be the second.

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**The AIDS Knowledge Base: A Textbook on HIV Disease from the University of California, San Francisco, and the San Francisco General Hospital.**

PT Cohen, Merle A. Sande, Paul A. Volberding PA (eds). *The Medical Publishing Group, a Division of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Waltham, Massachusetts, 1990, unpagged, price not available. ISBN 0-910133-30-1.*

Like many practicing primary care physicians, I find myself constantly challenged to remain current in my clinical skills and diagnostic capabilities as the form and scope of medical practice continues to evolve. The AIDS epidemic has, for many of us, been found to be particularly challenging in its multisystem presentations, ethical dilemmas, and rapidly changing state-of-the-art. What has been needed is a current, comprehensive text designed to answer both the common and uncommon questions faced when dealing with HIV-related illnesses. This new textbook satisfies that need admirably.

*The AIDS Knowledge Base* represents the work of over 50 clinicians

and authors who are actively involved in the treatment and care of HIV-infected patients at San Francisco General Hospital. Originally available in 1987 only through electronic media, the authors recognized the need for a hardcopy version to be more widely available. Using the text of the original electronic version, the authors added figures and graphs to this newest revision to enhance the presentation and make it more useful.

Although a truly exhaustive review of the current state of knowledge, this text is well organized, outlined, and indexed so that information is readily accessible. It covers the entire spectrum of the subject of AIDS, from the epidemiology and pathogenesis of AIDS, to the public education and ethical issues related to it. Each section is followed by an up-to-date bibliography for even more detailed explanations. Its overall excellent quality is exactly what might be expected from the publishers of the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the *Journal of the American Board of Family Practice*.

This book should qualify for the "must have" list of any student, resident, or practicing physician anticipating the care of AIDS patients and their families. Upon completing my review of it, I immediately recommended its purchase for our hospital library. That is the best recommendation I can give.

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**Clinical Dermatology: A Color Guide to Diagnosis and Therapy.** Thomas P. Habif. *The C.V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1990, 756 pp, price not available. ISBN 0-8016-2465-7.*

This just released second edition of a book first published in 1985 is far and away the best book on dermatology for use in primary care that I

have seen. Most dermatology texts and manuals are not well focused to the needs of nondermatologists in everyday practice and usually lack color illustrations. Dr. Habif, Adjunct Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine (Dermatology) at Dartmouth Medical School, sets out to "create the kind of practical resource a busy practicing physician needs" by combining illustrations with current and comprehensive therapeutic information. He meets this goal to a remarkable degree.

Two excellent introductory chapters deal with principles of diagnosis and topical therapy, respectively. Subsequent chapters deal with groups of skin diseases organized in traditional categories. A final chapter provides a well-illustrated and comprehensive coverage of dermatologic surgical procedures.

This book has many strengths. It is abundantly illustrated with color photographs produced by special techniques for maximum detail and best simulation of the clinician's view through a hand lens. The layout is attractive, well organized, and highlighted. A logical approach to diagnosis and therapy is presented throughout; coverage of each subject is both concise and thorough. Tables are effectively used to highlight such areas as diagnostic tests, differential diagnosis, and comparative therapies. Each chapter is well referenced, the book is well indexed and useful reference tables are provided for a complete dermatologic formulary including drug interactions.

In summary, this book is highly recommended for family physicians and other primary care physicians, residents in training, and medical students. It is readable, up to date, and the best illustrated text yet available.

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