

Making it in British Medicine

Sabina Dosani and Peter Cross
 Radcliffe Publishing 2004
 Price £21.95. Pp 176
 ISBN 1 85775 875 7

The NHS has relied on large numbers of international doctors for many years and will continue to do so. This book offers lots of good sensible advice for such doctors and collates much of the basic information that would be helpful to such visitors.

The first chapter deals with the initial planning that is necessary before embarking to the UK. This is followed by a concise history of the NHS, moving to recent events and changes through to what to expect in the current NHS. Career options and the various types of medical posts in both hospitals and general prac-

tice are explained. Advice on how to apply for posts and the practicalities of coping with jobs is provided. Statements from international doctors who have experienced the UK system are quoted – most are helpful but where these are potentially inflammatory a balance is struck with an opposite view.

There is a very detailed referenced chapter on examinations, starting with the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and PLAB (Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board) tests and then the professional examinations from a wide range of colleges. The knowledge from this section



will give the reader excellent insight into the examinations system and lead to better planning and preparation that is essential for a positive outcome.

The book is completed by a section on dealing with difficulties that may be experienced and general information on living in the UK. Finally, a list of various abbreviations and addresses of professional organizations is provided. This is a well-organized, readable book that I would recommend to all international doctors visiting the UK.

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Lecture Notes in Radiology (2nd edn)

Pradip R Patel
 Blackwell Publishing 2005
 Price £17.95. Pp 320
 ISBN 1405120673

Radiology has been seen by some from outside the speciality as one where the choice of the correct radiological examination, and indeed image interpretation itself, are almost mystical powers. Certainly my undergraduate training involved little exposure to or teaching in radiology, and it was not examined at all in the final examination syllabus.

Pradip Patel has succeeded in providing a comprehensive but accessible short textbook to guide the reader through each of the main radiological specialities. The book commences with a brief description of how the images are obtained, giving the reader a basic understanding of computed tomography scanning, magnetic resonance imaging, ultrasound, fluoroscopy and nuclear medicine, as well as plain X-rays and interventional techniques in radiology.

Specialities are covered in a consistent format for each chapter, commencing with the role of different imaging modalities in the investigation of each organ system. This is supplemented with teaching on the analysis of plain X-rays, particularly in the respiratory and gastrointestinal sections. Superb line drawings accompany most chapters, but particular mention should be made of the chest section, where illustrations of normal anatomy and of the differ-

ent types of lobar collapse that accompany neighbouring radiographs are excellent.

The most common or important conditions are then covered with a short synopsis of the pathology, clinical presentation, radiological features and treatment. Without exception the accompanying images are of very high quality, with labelling and annotations being correct and unambiguous.

I would recommend this book without hesitation to any undergraduate or junior doctor (indeed perhaps it should be compulsory reading). It would be a useful addition to any consultant or registrar's bookshelf – I wish that I had this book when I was a medical registrar, both for teaching students and junior colleagues and for learning about radiology myself.

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Surgery of the Skin: Procedural Dermatology

Edited by June K Robinson, C William Hanke, Roberta D Sengelmann, Daniel M Siegel
 Elsevier Mosby 2005
 Price £132.00. Pp 896
 ISBN 0323027520

This is a comprehensive book which will appeal not only to dermatologists but several other specialties including plastic surgery, ophthalmology and ear, nose and throat surgery. The book generally has excellent diagrams and use of photographs and also comes with its own DVD.

The book consists of four sections: basic surgical concepts, essential surgical skills, aesthetic surgical procedures and special procedures. There is a good initial section that focuses on basic surgical principles such as aseptic technique, surgical anatomy, local anaesthetic and wound healing.

Essential surgical skills focuses on basic and intermediate surgical skills including elliptical excision and dog ear repairs. It has a useful section on flap surgery and regional reconstruction.

The section on aesthetic surgical procedures is a large part of the book, devoted to cosmetic procedures including the use of botox, lasers and peels. This would probably appeal more to the USA market and UK physicians may have preferred more information on the basic and intermediate surgical skills, i.e. reconstruction rather than cosmesis.

Special procedures includes a good section on nail surgery, which some tend to be wary of, and the management of scars including keloids as well as the increasingly widespread and important technique of Mohs micrographic surgery for the removal of difficult select skin cancers.

This is a comprehensive text covering the now wide subject of procedural/surgical dermatology. Its downside may be that in trying to be comprehensive, covering both essential surgical skills and aesthetic procedures, it may not satisfy the full needs of those interested primarily in either.

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