

Vignettes for the MRCOG Volume 5

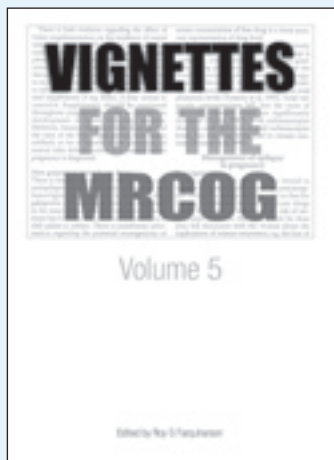
Edited by Roy G Farquharson

Quay Books 2006

Price £29.99. Pp 192

ISBN 1 85642 312 3

The purpose of the vignette series is to provide a concise and up-to-date overview of current clinical practice. This book provides an excellent range of relevant topics ranging from vaccination against cervical cancer to workforce issues and the Confidential Enquiry into



Maternal Deaths. The chapters are well referenced, presenting the most recently available key research.

The chapter by Patki et al, on the causes and management of stress urinary incontinence, was particularly useful providing a comprehensive overview of conservative, medical and surgical techniques and Sorinola and Begum's overview of the causes and management of ureteric injury in obstetric and gynaecological practice serves as an essential reminder for

all those undertaking such procedures.

The book also tackles three of the most difficult clinical problems in our specialty, particularly for junior medical staff – vulval pain, premenstrual dysphoric disorder, and chronic pelvic pain and irritable bowel syndrome. These three chapters discussed in detail the causation and treatment options for these difficult to manage but extremely common problems.

This book would be a valuable text for all grades in our specialty, not just those about to undertake the membership examination.

Jemma Johns, The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust, London

Understanding Respiratory Medicine: a problem-orientated approach

Martyn R Partridge

Manson Publishing 2006

Price £19.95. Pp 176

ISBN 1 84076 045 1

This book aims to teach the reader respiratory medicine using a problem-based approach. Primarily designed for senior medical students, junior doctors and specialist nurses, it is split into sections that take the reader through background respiratory knowledge, symptoms, clinical signs (including good examination tips) and then investigations.

This book is well laid out, with plenty of illustrations and charts, although I would have liked to see more examples and explanation of lateral radiographs. It is a slim volume, easy to pick up and read in small sections, which makes it appealing. It takes a problem-based approach, involving numerous interactive case studies (with suggested answers) which caught my attention.

The problem-based approach makes this a very practical book, with good teaching for both inpatient cases and outpatient clinics, with particular focus on a multidisciplinary approach to management.

I found this book to be a rather unusual mixture of very detailed chapters and rather basic information. Parts are too basic for junior doctors, and best suited to medical students, yet other chapters contain detailed information that medical students would not be expected, or need, to know. However, some of the more difficult concepts are well explained, and should the reader feel that some areas are not covered in enough depth, there are suggested further reading references at the end of each chapter.

Claire Vandeveld, Derby City Hospital, Derby

Oxford Handbook of ENT and Head and Neck Surgery

Rogan Corbridge, Nicholas Steventon

Oxford University Press 2006

Price £24.95. Pp 444

ISBN 0198564929

This book is exactly as described – a well organized pocket-sized book in a plastic cover that is ideal for carrying around during day-to-day activities as either a student or foundation doctor.

There are 21 sections that provide a comprehensive guide to the specialty that includes career guidance and a basic stu-

dent curriculum. The chapters are clear and concise, each starting with a simple plan of the individual contents. Examination techniques and investigations are described and commonly presenting scenarios and their differential diagnoses are clearly displayed.

Clinical topics are presented according to their anatomical region and cover most aspects of the specialty, followed by chapters on consent, common operations, ward care, ear, nose and throat (ENT) emergencies and practical procedures. Sections are illustrated by many line drawings that are relatively clear in most cases. Terms such as FESS (functional endoscopic sinus surgery), osteomeatal complex and cholesteatoma would benefit from a clear definition, and this should be considered for any future editions.

This is likely to be a very useful pocket reference book for students and foundation doctors doing ENT within their rotations. The book may also be a helpful aid to more experienced senior members of the specialty in preparing teaching sessions or as a quick basic reference in areas outside of their normal field of interest.

Andrew Swift, University Hospital Aintree, Liverpool