

**Coronary Heart Disease Epidemiology: From aetiology to public health (2nd edn)**

Edited by Michael Marmot and Paul Elliott

Oxford University Press 2005

Price £39.50. Pp 932

ISBN 0198568061

The authors have written this book with the aim of highlighting the importance of Geoffrey Rose in developing methodology in coronary heart disease epidemiology and also highlighting his prominence in implementation of epidemiological evidence into clinical practice and public health policy.

The book achieves its aim very well and while it reinforces the contribution of Geoffrey Rose it inevitably also covers the history behind current established risk factors and current public health policies. The impacts of major governmental

initiatives such as the California Tobacco Control Campaign are discussed.

It leaves you with a strong impression of the importance of epidemiology to cardiovascular health. It warns of a rise of a coronary heart disease epidemic within developing countries and stresses the importance of learning from the European and North American experiences over the past few decades in order to avert a crisis.

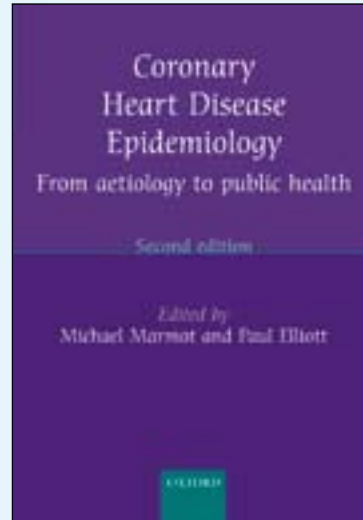
The book covers the global burden of coronary heart disease and compares risk factor prevalence and coronary heart disease mortality within different countries. New risk factors

are also thoroughly and systematically reviewed.

The authors also describe the life course of established risk factors, pointing out the importance of the early developmental period in determining lifetime cardiovascular risk, while also advocating risk reduction within the elderly.

Overall the book is accessible, informative and authoritative. It will serve as a valuable source of reference for those with an interest in cardiovascular disease, epidemiology and public health.

*Owais Dar, National Heart and Lung Institute, London*



**Concise Notes in Oncology for MRCP and MRCS (3rd edn)**

Kefah Mokbel

Radcliffe 2005

Price £19.95. Pp 181

ISBN 1857757572

I enjoyed these Concise Notes in Oncology and felt that the book has achieved its objectives of delivery of accurate and concise information on oncology.

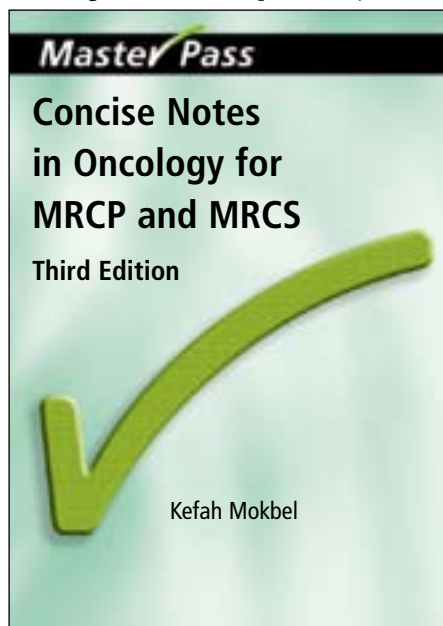
This book is intended for undergraduate medical students and for MRCP and MRCS candidates. I felt that some simple line diagrams would help to clarify certain

chapters, perhaps especially those on statistics and tumour growth and metastases. This is not a book to be 'read' and there is no sense of dialogue, or the development of ideas or different opinions. There is no room for 'doubt' on these pages.

However, I can recommend this book as thorough, comprehensive and up to date for revision for final MB and MRCP/MRCS. It would also provide an excellent framework on which to build further, for those developing their interest in oncology.

Even as a specialist, this book provides some useful 'punchy' reminders of areas I do not specialize in, such as multiple endocrine neoplasias and thyroid cancers.

*Helena Earl, University of Cambridge, Cambridge*



**Psychotherapy and the Treatment of Cancer Patients: Bearing cancer in mind**

Lawrence Goldie

Routledge 2005

Price £18.99. Pp 156

ISBN 1583918574

In this book of 150 pages Goldie, a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, has drawn on his 30 years' experience as a psychotherapist to a major specialist cancer hospital (Royal Marsden).

The style is narrative based and typical of psychotherapeutic writing. It is difficult

to see what the primary audience is likely to be. It is non-technical in both the clinicopathological and in the psychoanalytic psychodynamic sense so would not be immediately helpful to oncologists or psychotherapists. Despite this being a psychotherapeutic styled book there is no excessive, unnecessary psychobabble.

The book is both frank and challenging. It describes in detail the professional and personal difficulties the author had in being accepted as well as the emotional and communication shortcomings of clinical colleagues. It also illuminates and explains the difficulties terminal patients may encounter and how psychotherapy may help. It does not attempt to explain how to practise psychoanalytic psychodynamic psychotherapy but by way of many vignettes does describe and explain possible mechanisms of dysfunction. These explanations are plausible, clear and complete with justification of how the holistic process of psychotherapy may help. In essence the work is a case series with the author's personal explanation.

Unfortunately the whole book is probably too indigestible for most hospital staff which is a great pity – the insight developed by reading the author's opinion of the hospital dynamics could be of great benefit to many health-care workers and patients.

*David Bickerton, Wonford House Hospital, Exeter*