

Seminars in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (2nd edn)

Edited by Simon G Gowers
Gaskell 2005

Price £25.00. Pp 320
ISBN 1904671136

This is a really useful book covering the large and rapidly expanding field of child and adolescent psychiatry. Aimed primarily at medics preparing for their Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (MRCPsych) examination, it would also serve well as a brief guide to paediatricians and hospital doctors whose focus is not primarily mental health but who will undoubt-



edly come into contact with child and adolescent mental health issues.

Included are chapters on normal and abnormal child and adolescent development, the assessment process in child psychiatry, systems such as the family that affect and are affected by a child's functioning and well-being, and broader professional systems around the child, e.g. the legal and forensic system and the mental health four-tiered service.

The chapters on common problems (developmental disorders, conduct disorders, anxiety adjustment and attachment disorders, depression and self-harm, psychosis, eating disorders and sub-

stance misuse) cover classification, aetiology, prognosis and a brief word about management. Overall, there is little that would be seen in the day-to-day functioning of a child and adolescent mental health service that is not covered here.

The style of writing is clear and overall the text is well ordered and referenced. Some chapters have a helpful list of suggested further reading for those who want to further their interest in a particular area.

As a clinical psychologist working in a multidisciplinary child and adolescent mental health team, I would happily put this book on my shelf in the hope that my child psychiatry and other colleagues will dip into it.

Sarah Helps, West Kent NHS and Social Care Trust

Oxford Handbook of Urology

John Reynard, Simon Brewster,
Suzanne Biers

Oxford University Press 2005
Price £24.95. Pp 678
ISBN 0198530951

Oxford handbook by name, Oxford handbook by nature! This excellent book dedicated to urology is in the manner and style that most UK medical graduates are accustomed to. It is useful for the medical student revising for finals, for the busy urology preregistration house officer and provides occasional gems for the specialist registrar preparing for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS (Urol)) examination.

The book is intended to 'provide an invaluable source of information and advice for the doctor or nurse who has had very limited experience' and I think that this objective is met, but it does require some time to read. Otherwise, the book is well structured and easy to read.

I do think that there is a slight bias to practice which is peculiar to Churchill Hospital Oxford, such as the described technique of JJ stent insertion under local anaesthetic, but the facts are presented well. In addition, as in the style of the Oxford handbook series, a useful 'red' section on emergencies would have been beneficial for the readers.

Finally, there is no doubt that many readers will write in with their comments and views to update the next edition – this

is one of the strong points about the Oxford handbook series. This book is well worth having if you are practising in the field of urology.

Iqbal Shergill, London Deanery, London

Rapid Review of ECG Interpretation

Tariq Azeem, Michael Vassallo,
Nilesh J Samani

Manson Publishing 2006
Price £19.95. Pp 128
ISBN 1840760435

The marketplace is not short on books on electrocardiogram (ECG) interpretation, but this publication comes as a welcome addition to those already available. The book is well aimed at a readership that would comfortably cover senior medical students to junior doctors at specialist registrar level.

It would be particularly well suited to preregistration house officers and would be useful as a reminder for those sitting the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians (MRCP) exams, but is not demanding enough for the more senior reader.

The book itself is attractively printed and

laid out. The technical sections on principles of electrocardiography and comprehensive assessment of the ECG, which can be dry and dreary topics, are well judged and written, and are comprehensive enough without going into unnecessary detail.

The real strength of this book, however, is the series of 50 case histories, all illustrated with several ECG examples. A broad range of conditions are considered including normal variants, ischaemic syndromes, bradyarrhythmias and tachyarrhythmias as well as some basic pacemaker examples. This section is clearly set out and readable, and the ECGs which are provided illustrate the clinical conditions extremely well, although the discussions on the clinical ramifications of the

ECGs are sometimes brief in order to focus on the actual ECG itself.

In all, this book is to be recommended to anyone who would like to consolidate their practical and theoretical knowledge of ECG interpretation. It is comprehensive, readable and fairly priced at £19.95.

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