

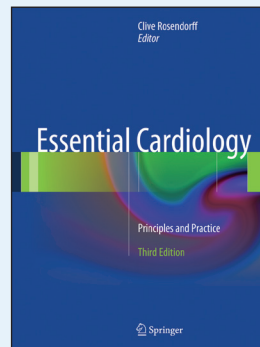
Essential Cardiology: Principles and Practice (3rd edn)

edited by Clive Rosendorff
Springer 2013
Price £180.00. Pp 823
ISBN 978 1 4614 6704 5

Essential Cardiology: Principles and Practice is an excellent reference book for cardiology trainees. It covers almost all of the topics and situations one may encounter in clinical practice and many topics that are missed in similar text books. It is not the easiest of books to read in one sitting, but given the extensive coverage of the topics, I found it a valuable source.

It offers easy access to information on most of my cardiovascular quandaries.

Although quite a thick book, the information is laid out in such a way that makes it easy to navigate. I found the first few chapters dedicated to biology and physiology quite useful. This sets up a good foundation that helped me understand the latter sections of the book, which are mainly on the different cardiovascular disease processes.



There are a number of diagrams and photographs which illustrate particular points and also help to break up the text. It is an up-to-date book with constant references to clinical trials and further references at the end of each chapter for those wishing to expand their knowledge further.

This is a highly desirable book for any cardiology trainee to help through his or her training.
H Randula Haththotuwa, Princess Royal Hospital, Telford

Viva Training in ENT: preparation for the FRCS (ORL-HNS)

edited by Declan Costello, Stuart Winter
Oxford University Press 2013
Price £42.99. Pp 248
ISBN 978 0 19 965950 0

Introduced by a basic guide to the intercollegiate specialist final examination and a referral to the examination website, this book consists of eight chapters dedicated to section 2 of the exam.

Each chapter contains several topics or 'questions'. Each question commences with a list of actual questions and model answers. The book covers a range of topics: facial plastics, rhinology, head and neck, otology, paediatrics, operative surgery, clinical cases and communication skills. Several include black and white images. Note the operative skills section of the actual examination no longer exists.

The book provides some support to those who wish to do well in the examination, although potential purchasers should be aware that none of the individual authors are nor have been examiners, although some may have attended as observers.

Chapters, each with its own style, have each been written by different authors of varying experience; some have passed the examination within recent years.

Each 'question' lasts 5 minutes in the actual examination. Most of the model answers extend beyond this time frame because of unnecessary details.

None of the questions are taken from the actual examination, although the communication skills chapter purports to illus-

trate past examinations. Also, this chapter incorrectly suggests there is a knowledge component to this part of the exam.

The concept of the examination should have been addressed: a test of competence of a new consultant in clinical situations. The book should have emphasized the systematic process of the examination from basic introductory questions to competence and then more challenging questions. This would also assist trainers who often give practice viva sessions.

I would not deter candidates from buying this book, but they should understand that it is not an entirely accurate reflection of the actual examination.

Andrew Swift, Aintree University Hospital, Liverpool

Perioperative Pain Management

edited by Richard D Urman and Nalini Vadivel
Oxford University Press 2013
Price £22.50. Pp 144
ISBN 978 0 19 993721 9

This short book addresses the important and relevant subject of pain management within the hospital setting. Aimed at all health professionals, it provides a palatable guide, handy for quick reference. The start of the book is very general, giving a brief overview of acute pain management and the assessment of pain while covering the basic physiology of pain mechanisms. The book then focuses on the clinical management of pain, breaking down topics into comprehensive chapters and closing with a short chapter on the direction pain medicine may be taking in the future.

I found the middle chapters of the book, which focus on different groups of analgesics, the most relevant and applicable to everyday practice within the hospital. The side effect profiles of medications are broken down by body system and also by the receptor group the drugs target. A wealth of extra information is laid out in clear, comprehensive tables.

As a novice, I found chapter 6 on regional anaesthesia techniques particularly useful. The chapter is divided into the upper and lower extremities with each block explained: indication, technique and complications. While this could be simplistic for more senior doctors, the basics are explained extremely well.

The book broadly covers complementary and alternative medicines, often a rather 'woolly' area in hospital practice compounded by grey evidence. However, it still provides a useful basic guide as these techniques are gaining in popularity among patients. The text ventures into the world of chronic pain, another specialist area. The authors tackle the basics, such as adjuvant analgesia for postoperative management of chronic pain.

Finally, special cases are also considered: paediatrics, elderly care and obstetrics. This section could benefit trainees and allied health-care professionals alike.

Overall, this short book provides a useful quick reference guide to perioperative pain management. The information is presented in a logical and coherent manner and will be useful to all health-care professionals dealing with acute or chronic pain.

Katherine Stratton, Northampton General Hospital, Northampton