

Excellent Dementia Care in Hospitals

Jo James, Beth Cotton, Jules Knight, Rita Freyne, Josh Pettit, Lucy Gilby Jessica Kingsley 2017
Price £16.99. Pp 192
ISBN 978 1 78592 108 7

Its title is as much an admission of failings as a description of this book's contents. Why does excellent dementia care in hospital still require discussion, rather than being routine practice? The reasons are complex but this volume is a step in the right direction.

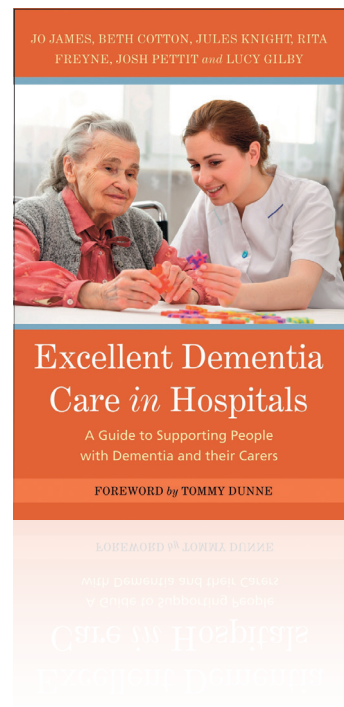
The first of the main chapters challenges the reader with a series of terms which may be applied to the current treatment of persons with dementia in our hospitals – excellent is not among them. This volume's price tag and length, however, are not too much of a challenge for pockets or schedules.

The chapters have an engaging case-based style, with headings that progress from core knowledge to more tangential. Each ends with a table of pragmatic tips aimed

separately at qualified professionals and health-care workers irrespective of training.

As a neurologist, I am not really their target reader. From that slightly eccentric perspective, a weakness was the very bland information on diagnosis in the case histories. The practical know-how offered was comprehensive, although perhaps they are rather sparse in their detail on Deprivation of Liberty. The last chapter focuses on touch sensation, and includes hand massage techniques. This was somewhat unexpected, but very welcome.

This book is easy to read and easy to recommend. For experienced clinicians, it will provide some pearls of wisdom. Those with less experience might read cover-to-cover, and receive a caring, carefully written guide to the characteristics of dementia, and those of excellent dementia care in hospitals. *Rhys Davies, The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool*



Chest Drains in Daily Clinical Practice

Edited by Thomas Kiefer
Springer 2017
Price £66.99. Pp 202
ISBN 978 3 319 32338 1

Chest Drains in Daily Clinical Practice is a useful primer in the use and management of intercostal chest drains. The book covers the major concerns of practitioners dealing with chest drains – the anatomy, physiology and indications for drainage of the pleural space. The book goes on to cover a number of aspects of the management of chest drains, including common problems encountered in patients who have a chest drain in situ.

The book has a rather surgical flavour, concentrating on aspects of thoracic medicine most relevant to this speciality. As a result, the section on anatomy is comprehensive, and serves as a useful reminder. The surgical approach also influences sections on management, monitoring and insertion of chest drains. The book lacks a little in terms of management of clinical problems by physicians dealing with pleural disease away from a cardiothoracic centre.

One key innovation in management of pleural disease in the last decade or so has been the advent of indwelling pleural catheters. These are mentioned, but a further section would help those looking for a reference for management of problems in this patient group. Overall, a useful primer, with a surgical flavour. *Toby Hillman, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, London*

Your Life in My Hands: A Junior Doctor's Story

Rachel Clarke
Metro Books 2017
Price £16.99. Pp 280
ISBN 978 1 78606 451 6

Rachel Clarke is an NHS junior doctor who became prominent during the junior doctor contract negotiations and subsequent strikes in 2016, famously setting up permanent camp outside the Department of Health.

This semi-autobiographical book comprises 15 chapters with broad themes reflected in titles such as 'deeds', 'resilience' and 'insurrection'. Each contains an anecdote about her former life as a journalist, a memorable experience in

medical school or working in the NHS, then an interesting clinical case vignette, used as a segue to a comment on the current state of the health service. It is an account from the front line, detailing the day-to-day wins and losses of a doctor in training, such as a difficult cannula, feeling out of your depth, cups of tea or breaking bad news.

Rachel writes well, with candour, clarity and chutzpah about life as a junior doctor and the events of the previous 18 months. As a junior doctor who has lived through the recent events, I enjoyed the book and Rachel's perspective, but I think it lends itself more to the general public than fellow doctors. Which leads me to my only criticism; the book at times uses terminology that lends itself to a more populist tone, such as 'silent killer' or 'pouring blood'.

Although ultimately the contract was imposed, she rightly acknowledges the power of social media and indeed even thanks Jeremy Hunt, in uniting and empowering the 64 000 junior doctors (and their seniors) in a manner never seen before. This can only be a good thing. *David Warriner, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, London*