

Litt's Drug Eruption and Reaction Manual (23rd edn)

Jerome Z Litt, Neil H Shear

CRC Press 2017

Price £77.00. Pp 396

ISBN 9781138197992

In its 23rd edition, *Litt's Drug Eruption and Reaction Manual* remains an indispensable tool to the practising dermatologist. It offers a unique source of reference for adverse drug reactions of all kinds, based not only on summaries of product characteristics, but also on 'real life', in that it draws constantly on the published literature, searching for publications describing adverse reactions to medicines to update the text.

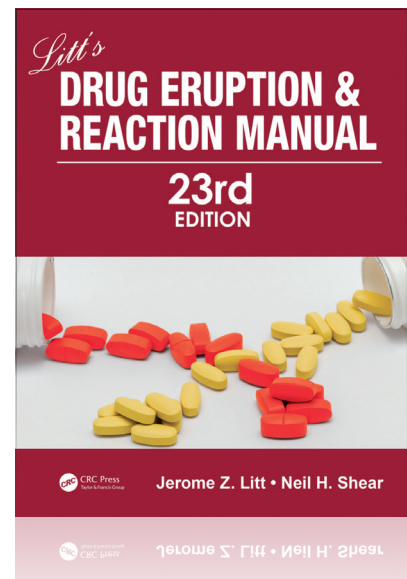
The alphabetical format ensures easy and quick access to the desired information, making this book as useful for answering a rapid query in clinic as for a more in-depth interrogation of potential culprit drugs in a complex case. An index of drugs that cause important reactions, such as purpura or erythema nodosum,

is a very useful feature, allowing the clinician to hone a differential based on the morphology of the reaction.

The proliferation of new biological and chemotherapeutic agents has led to many challenges for clinicians seeing the adverse side effects of these drugs. It is perhaps in this area that Litt really excels, in that it collates emerging evidence and reports. This is done to great effect in the 'class reactions' section of the book, which summarizes for example the side effects of the individual agents within the class tyrosine kinase inhibitors.

This resource is already known and highly valued by dermatologists, but its usefulness transcends all specialties. I would consider it an indispensable reference book for the shelves of any doctors' rooms in acute hospitals, outpatients or general practice.

Sarah Walsh, King's College Hospital, London



Handbook of Clinical Anaesthesia (4th edn)

Edited by Brian Pollard, Gareth Kitchen

CRC Press 2017

Price £79.99. Pp 770

ISBN 9781498762892

The fourth edition of the *Handbook of Clinical Anaesthesia* aims to comprehensively cover the FRCA syllabus. It is divided into three sections: patient conditions, surgical procedures and anaesthetic factors. Information is clearly laid out with sub-headings and presented concisely with extensive use of bullet points and tables where appropriate; references are listed at the end of each topic. Its format means that it is easy to refer to for pertinent information about a specific condition or operation, which has been ideal to glance at before or after theatre lists. Equally the list format is not overused and there are sections of concise prose that are easy to read and aid understanding.

It lacks colour and contains very few illustrations, which would be a drawback for visual learners. Another potential drawback is the index, which at times did not list the topic I was looking for. On further searching this content was in the book but not indexed

as I would have expected. Each topic contains cross references to other relevant content within the book; while useful to link your knowledge, page numbers are not given making navigating to these topics difficult.

Overall, I have found it to be an approachable textbook for someone new to anaesthesia, while also containing the depth of knowledge required for the final exams. I would recommend it to colleagues looking for a concise reference text.

Ben Lowe, Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Chesterfield

Thoughtful Health Care: Ethical Awareness and Reflective Practice

David Seedhouse

Sage 2017

Price £22.99. Pp 199

ISBN 9781473953833

David Seedhouse is a medical ethicist, who has written widely on health and health care and hosts a website called the values exchange for debating such matters. The book aims to restore thoughtfulness and creativity in health care and succeeds in encouraging one to think laterally about such problems, consider one's own cognitive

biases and the manifold role of ethics in health care, but fails to offer workable solutions, even in the chapter titled 'toolkit'.

I agree with many points raised, such as 'values are not defined in consultation', the ridiculousness of not allowing flowers on wards or staff to sit on beds and how ultimately as health-care professionals, especially in the age of shared decision making, we should be creating autonomy for patients first and fighting disease and illness second. However, as a book, this is a somewhat verbose ramble over a wide range of overlapping topics, in loosely titled chapters and using often bizarre analogies.

Clinically, I take issue with non-diagnoses such as 'mild atrial fibrillation' and non-treatments such as using fondaparinux for haemodialysis. I like the various stop and think boxes throughout the book, based on clinical situations, which try to add a pragmatic focus in the chapters.

As clinicians we are often too dogmatic and disease focused, and thinking more freely and widely about health care is a good thing. Unfortunately, this book is flabby, long-winded and too disparate to create a consistent and cohesive narrative. *David Warriner, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds*