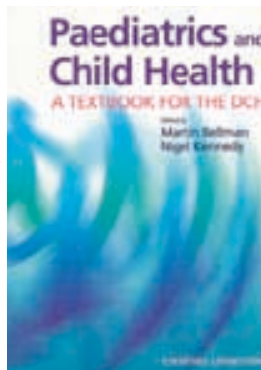


BOOK REVIEWS

Paediatrics and Child Health: A Textbook for the DCH

Edited by Martin Bellman, Nigel Kennedy
Churchill Livingstone 2000
Price £36.95. Pp 402
ISBN 0 443 05901 2

Primary prevention of ill-health in childhood is coming of age in the UK, and is trying to define more precisely the aims of preventive child health services and ensure that interventions are soundly based. Better methods are needed for allocating and deploying existing resources and ensuring that there is an effective mechanism for reliably evaluating the impact of child health promotion. This well written textbook, designed for the Diploma in Child Health (DCH) examination, fulfils this mission admirably. Seventeen chapters deal with most aspects of the child in the community and is geared for the GP in relation to disease prevention in the primary care setting. Hospital needs have not been ignored, however, and many sections detail hospital clinical management to encourage accurate diagnosis and subsequent primary care support.



Many 'new' topics have been introduced such as informatics (not in the Oxford Dictionary), child health surveillance, genetics and child disability. All these subjects are discussed with primary care emphasis. The opening chapter provides an excellent introduction to recent changes in society and the effects they have on children's health. The recommendations of the forward thinking Court report in 1976, *Fit for the Future*, were enormously influential and belatedly are now almost fully implemented. Communications difficulties are especially well discussed in various chapters, and the chapter on child protection was detailed and comprehensive. Other innovative ideas include Internet addresses and contacts, as well as an eye catching and impressive chapter contents listing all the subjects in detail in that chapter.

This book provides an ideal preparation for its object — the DCH, but adds a very considerable depth of paediatric and child health knowledge for both paediatricians and GPs. Highly recommended.

SM Tucker, Hillingdon Hospital, Middlesex

ABC of Sexual Health

Edited by John Tomlinson
BMJ Publishing Group 1999
Price £14.95. Pp 61
ISBN 0 7279 1373 5

This book is another in the ABC series, consisting of a collection of articles related to sexual health, published in the *British Medical Journal* in 1999.

The first author sets the scene by describing how difficult the patient may find it to raise sexual problems with their practitioner and also highlights the interactions of psychological and organic factors. The review of psychological approaches to management is clear but perhaps too succinct, and more detail would have been useful. The overviews of normal anatomy, physiology and behaviour are well written and provide good revision of topics which may not have been covered since undergraduate training.

The chapter on taking a sexual history is particularly good — an excellent introduction for those with little experience and a good aide-memoir for those knowledgeable about this. The sections on homosexuals, sexual variations and the disabled are to be recommended. The chapter on the sexual life of a woman after an operation is good but would have been better if men had been included.

There are two main criticisms to be made of this publication. The first is the frequent repetition of topics in different chapters, with some

data or information being given at least three times. Not only is text repeated, but almost identical illustrations appear in the different sections. Of more concern are inaccuracies in the medical information given, such as urogenital ageing being a cause of postcoital bleeding, genital herpes being quoted as a major cause of superficial dyspareunia, and suggesting that a stoma may be performed for irritable bowel syndrome.

There is a great need for all doctors, as well as other health-care specialists, to have an awareness of their patient's sexuality and to be comfortable in discussing issues related to sex: parts of this book should be recommended reading for any doctor involved in direct patient care in order to help them achieve this.

Karen E Rogstad, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield

Clinical Diagnostic Ultrasound (2nd edn)

Edited by Grant M Baxter, Paul LP Allan,
Patricia Morley
Blackwell Science 1999
Price £195.00. Pp 752
ISBN 0 632 03744 X

The 2nd edition of this book, first published 13 years ago, continues to realize the authors' aims of providing an up-to-date and practical book covering all aspects of diagnostic ultrasound that are likely to be encountered in clinical

practice. The book is well written, well indexed and comprehensively illustrated.

It is organized into 9 major sections that include an introductory section on physics and instrumentation, followed by sections covering all aspects of diagnostic ultrasound from musculoskeletal applications to obstetrics and paediatrics. As a consequence of this, some chapters are more comprehensive than others. Ultrasound of the abdomen and pelvis are rightly a major part of the book and the respective sections are brought up-to-date by contributions on transplants, lithotripsy and endoscopic ultrasound. The sections on ultrasound of the thyroid gland and testes suffer a little from a limited number of illustrated examples, but this is a minor criticism of what is a generally well-balanced single volume text. The book is enhanced by good quality ultrasound images and includes 46 pages of colour plates.

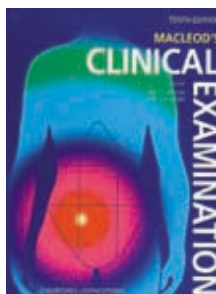
Overall, this book should prove to be a valuable reference aid, suitable for radiologists, physicians with a specific interest and sonographers. It will be particularly appreciated by those who need to master some of the newer ultrasound applications including endoluminal ultrasound of the lower gastrointestinal tract, with the vital information well presented and illustrated. Although not cheap, this edition deserves a place on the radiology department bookshelf.

Sarah Howling, Whittington Hospital, London

Macleod's Clinical Examination (10th edn)

Edited by John F Munro, Ian W Campbell
Churchill Livingstone 2000
Price £21.95. Pp 312
ISBN 0 443 06172 6

This is an excellent book and it was a pleasure to review. Much thought has gone into the changes that have been made and the rewards to the reader are obvious. The editors have maintained a degree of uniformity in the style that is used throughout the chapters by different authors, which will comfort the undergraduate and encourage the necessary routine of clinical examination.



I recommend this edition to colleagues in both primary and secondary care as an effective way to revisit areas that may have become a little dusty along the years. The chapters are easy to read and, without being patronising, remind us of the basics which remain the engine of sound clinical practice.

The world wide web, God bless it, is a poor second in comparison to the relevant information that can be gleaned easily from a book such as this. Certainly the superb colour photographs and diagrams enhance the text, but the tradition of this book owes much to the thoughts and experience of its editors and contributors.

John Paterson, Scarborough Hospital