

Resuscitation Rules

Tim Hodgetts and Nick Castle
 BMJ Publishing Group 1999
 Price £13.95. Pp 116
 ISBN 0 7279 1371 9

I had great pleasure in reviewing this interesting textbook. Its presentation is excellent and it is a small book. It is very readable and indeed user friendly. The text is brilliant and at times very original and entertaining.

I believe this is an ideal textbook for trainees, not only because it will give them some easy-to-remember rules but it will also form a good source of information when they attend interviews or vivas.

I thoroughly enjoyed this textbook and I would recommend it very strongly to all junior doctors who are dealing with resuscitation. This is clearly written by experts who have dealt with and are dealing with resuscitation on a daily basis and the credibility of the authors is manifested in this textbook.

Manolis Gavalas, University College Hospital, London

Heart Failure Management

Edited by Norman Sharpe
 Martin Dunitz 1999
 Price £65.00. Pp 288
 ISBN 1 85317 867 5

It was a pleasure to read this book on the management of heart failure. Chapter 1 sets the scene with an excellent overview of the epidemiology of heart failure and the cost incurred by health-care systems in dealing with this problem. This is followed by chapters on management principles and non-pharmacological treatment. The number of drugs that have prognostic benefit in heart failure grows each year; the evidence base for each class of drug is well described and there is enough practical advice to satisfy most readers. Antithrombotic therapy is one area which has not been adequately studied in this patient population but

the evidence for and against antiplatelet and anticoagulant therapy is well set out.

Cardiac arrhythmias account for a significant proportion of the mortality from heart failure and the reader is taken through the role of antiarrhythmic drugs and devices. There is a useful compendium of clinical trials at the end of the book.

Who would benefit from reading this book? I would recommend it to any health-care professional with an interest in the treatment of patients with heart failure. Primary care physicians, internists and cardiologists would find it interesting to 'dip' into this book when faced with clinical problems. Trainees in general medicine and cardiology would benefit from reading all or most of its 288 pages; at £65 I suspect most would prefer to borrow a copy from the library. The references are surprisingly up to date. With the pace of progress in this field I look forward to reading the second edition of this book!

Jayan Parameshwar, Papworth Hospital, Cambridge

Dewhurst's Textbook of Obstetrics and Gynaecology for Postgraduates (6th edn)

Edited by D Keith Edmonds
 Blackwell Science 1999
 Price £95.00. Pp 648
 ISBN 0 865 42651 1

It is so gratifying to see an updated list of references in the bibliography at the end of each chapter. It is 4 years since the last edition of Dewhurst's Textbook, which has become a standard in the required reading of the obstetric and gynaecological trainee in the UK, since Sir Jack Dewhurst produced the first edition in 1972. Mr Keith Edmonds has done an excellent job in enlarging the authorship of the chapters and, in the main, providing up-to-date texts and the adoption of evidence-based practice, systematic reviews and randomized controlled trials.

It is pleasing to note the appearance of evidence-based practice in this new text, but there is still a long way to go. As the editor states in the

preface, the specialty of obstetrics and gynaecology is forever changing. There is little doubt that this standard text will change with advancing years and continues to improve with each new edition.

Roy G Farquharson, Liverpool Women's Hospital

ABC of Eyes (3rd edn)

PT Khaw, AR Elkington
 BMJ Publishing Group 1999
 Price £13.95. Pp 61
 ISBN 0 7279 1263 3

The *ABC of Eyes* has sprung into new life. The up-front cover of this third edition features Terry Tarrant's scenic, colourful informative, drawings and inside there are excellent new diagrams styled with an appealing up-to-date font.

But this modernity points up older features, especially some of the photographs — so the bleary lady with invisible gas permeable contact lenses is balanced by a cheery guide dog. There are some lingering antiquities in the text too, from mention of 'venereal disease' to a time-honoured approach to treatment for that most common of problems, blepharitis — no mention here of the option of once-daily minocycline and no room to debate the dilemma of cost in modern practice. However, the section on 'blindness' is excellent.

The content remains basic and synoptic — appealing to those who seek a 'quick-fix'. Some will find the text bald with no time for anecdote or charm, and much ophthalmojargon remains — 'primary open angle glaucoma' is little thrill for the jobbing physician or casualty officer. The book glances towards MRCP as well as general practice.

The range is full, presentation colourful, topics apt, information reliable and the format bite-sized, so this new edition deserves to be popular. It remains remarkable value.

Expect to be informed rather than inspired, secure in the knowledge that all relevant information is to be found here.

Peggy Frith, Oxford Eye Hospital

Travel Medicine and Migrant Health

Edited by C Lockie, E Walker, L Calvert, J Cossar, R Knill-Jones, F Raeside
 Churchill Livingstone 2000
 Price £39.95. Pp 499
 ISBN 0 443 0624 2

This book is compiled from teaching material used on the MSc in Travel Medicine course run from Glasgow. Apart from the MSc students, it is not entirely clear who this book is aimed at. However, there are few texts on travel medicine so an attempt to provide a single volume on the topic is welcome. The available immunizations, along with clear information about contraindications, are well-covered and there is adequate information about available antimalarial drugs. The epidemiological aspects of travel are covered well and there is a good section on where further information about travel medicine can be obtained, along with some useful web sites. In addition, the problems of the returning traveller are dealt with



competently and the important issue of psychological morbidity in the returning expatriate is a valuable contribution.

However, parts of this volume are quite disappointing. The uninitiated reader is given no real guidance about the use of malarial chemoprophylactic drugs and the various problems and controversies are not really discussed adequately. Despite 'migrant health' appearing in the title, this topic is barely dealt with. Although there is a section on the running of refugee camps, it seems a bit out of place in a travel medicine book. More useful would have been a discussion of the particular problems of migrants to developed countries, particularly those who end up in detention centres. Most of the book is

UK-centred and there is too much duplication of information; a reflection, perhaps of having six editors for a relatively small book. Tighter editing, a more international perspective and a more critical analysis of the risks and benefits of travel and of travel medicine will improve subsequent editions.

Christopher P Conlon, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford