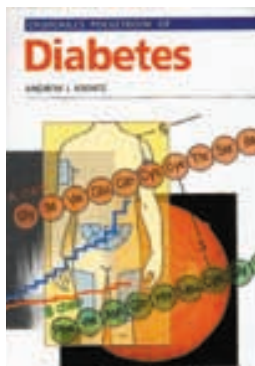


Churchill's Pocketbook of Diabetes

Andrew J Krentz
Churchill Livingstone 2000
Price £16.95. Pp 316
ISBN 0 44306118 1

Unlike other pocket and handbooks on the market this is really pocket-sized. It would comfortably fit into the pocket of a white coat (if anyone wore them anymore) and provide an invaluable source of quick reference. The book is like Dr Who's Tardis — small on the outside but huge on the inside. It is absolutely packed full of information on all areas of diabetes care. If you don't want a door-stop get this small cheap alternative.

The book is divided into 6 chapters containing 287 pages of facts on diabetes followed by a good bibliography. The text is divided up into short paragraphs punctuated by highlighted headline facts and notes. To accommodate the large amount of information the text size is small and this does make for hard going other than for short peri-



ods of reading. Bullet points and more figures may have helped overcome this. The sections within chapters are similarly not well divided but nevertheless accessible.

The chapters cover biochemistry, pathogenesis, diagnosis, education, management, acute and chronic complications, special groups with diabetes and legal and social aspects of diabetes care. Where appropriate key studies are highlighted and presented in outline to explain the evidence base for treatment. This alone provides an accessible easy reference. The chapters are all surprisingly comprehensive although the acute complications section is typically crammed and could be more clear.

In essence this little book provides an excellent source of reference on diabetes. It would be useful in the hands of all health-care professionals. Besides being cheap it is full of useful information, will not take over a bookcase and is small enough to be mobile. Highly recommended.

SJ Hurel, UCL Hospital, London

Practising Evidence Based Child Health

Edited by Sharon E Strauss
Radcliffe Medical Press 2000
Price £30.00. Pp 208
ISBN 1 85775 410 7

This book is created from a course syllabus of the same name and, I am afraid, it shows. Whereas it would probably be perfectly understandable with the help of a tutor sitting down with you and a computer linked to Medline, as a stand-alone book I found it extremely confusing and poorly designed.

The layout starts with groups of clinical examples that require a literature search and critical appraisal. The topics broadly include therapy, diagnosis, prognosis, systematic reviews and harm. Then there follows 'skills training' working through statistical methods designed to critically appraise the topic.

There is an assumption of a fairly high degree of knowledge about Medline — for instance the statements 'type in; 1. measles vaccination in TI, AB, Mesh'; 'explode 'ASTHMA'/ all subheadings' are given without further explanation.

To add realism the search yields an article that is reproduced as a printed photocopy of your hypothetical search results — this included hole punches, library stamps and warped margins from the spine of the bound journal, but renders many tables and reference lists unreadable to anyone with presbyopia.

A mark of the poor adaptation of the syllabus to the book is a section of presentations one would only hear on the course, and an evaluation of the teaching during the 'sessions'.

At the end of the book are non-contiguous sections of a textbook on EBM by Sackett et al, again photocopied from a book, resulting in a series of tables and figures at odd angles and gaps where you are left wondering what has been omitted.

Although this is an important topic I would not recommend this book to anyone who did not have the benefit of attending the course itself.

JKH Wales, University of Sheffield

Laparoscopic Gastro-Jejunostomy CD-ROM

Edited by Iris B Brune
Blackwell Science 1999
Price £140.00
ISBN 3 89412 350 8

This interactive CD-ROM leads the user through 4 case histories to investigation and case selection for laparoscopic gastro-jejunosomy. The operative set up and surgical technique are demonstrated.

Four case histories of patients with cancer of the pancreas are presented and the user is asked to choose the appropriate investigations. Correct selections including CT scans and barium studies are illustrated. A menu of treatments is then shown and in the light of the results of the investigations the user is asked to select the appropriate treatment. It is suggested that two of the patients should have laparoscopic gastro-jejunosomy with a further jejuno-jejunosomy performed downstream of the main anastomosis. The user is asked to place the trocars and instruments for the procedure. When unsure the user can press a button and be shown the suggested correct placement.

The individual steps in the performance of laparoscopic gastro-jejunosomy and jejuno-jejunosomy are then shown in several short clear video recordings. Video clips showing the alignment of the stomach and jejunum, the placement of the stay stitch, the opening of the stomach and jejunum and the suturing of the gastro-jejunal anastomosis are followed by similar video clips showing a jejuno-jejunosomy being performed downstream of the gastro-jejunal anastomosis. Finally there is a section on product information.

This is an enjoyable and instructive vehicle for teaching and would be of interest to surgical trainees and to consultants seeking to expand their portfolio of laparoscopic operations. The author does not advocate laparoscopic biliary bypass, although in my experience laparoscopic cholecysto-jejunosomy is simple and may be valuable when the gall bladder is distended with bile and the patient has a poor prognosis.

JM Wellwood, Harley Street, London

Clinical Urogynaecology (2nd edn)

Edited by Stuart L Stanton, Ash K Monga
Churchill Livingstone 1999
Price £125.00. Pp 741
ISBN 0 443 03949 6

The second edition of this book might have taken several years to materialize but it has been worth the wait!

This is probably the most comprehensive text on urogynaecology written so far. It is divided into 6 sections to include evidence-based reviews on basic science, investigations, clinical conditions, pregnancy and urinary tract dysfunction, treatments and practice.

There is something for everyone, with subjects ranging from urogynaecology in developing countries to organization of continence services, training and audit. These are to be welcomed. Other new chapters include ones on clinical neurophysiology and anorectal dysfunction, along with some of the newer therapies for detrusor instability and hyperreflexia, such as neuromodulation. There is also an excellent chapter on prolapse which will be essential reading.

All reviews are evidence-based and well written by authors from 17 different disciplines.

The International Continence Society standardization reports are included in the appendices and are important for uniformity of investigation, diagnosis and outcome measures. It is debatable, however, whether the recommendations of the Urodynamics Society are also necessary.

The only criticism is of some repetition but that apart the information contained is essential for all who are involved in managing women with lower urinary tract and pelvic floor dysfunction. At a time when clinical governance and revalidation are receiving such high priority, interested clinicians should be conversant with all aspects of urogynaecology. This book will go a long way to achieving that aim.

RM Freeman, Plymouth