

## Mosby's Color Atlas and Text of Pediatrics & Child Health

Bill Chaudhry, David Harvey

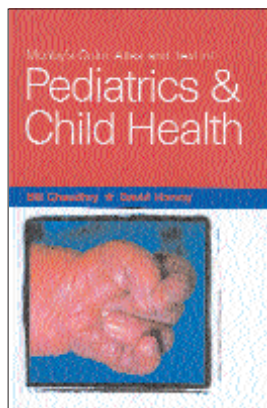
Mosby 2001

Price £26.95. Pp 414

ISBN 0 7234 2436 5

Paediatrics is a stimulating and rewarding speciality that is rapidly advancing and expanding. This book has been written as an introduction to the field, aimed mainly at undergraduates and those entering the paediatric speciality. The authors' objective was to provide a wide range of illustrations and a short text.

These criteria have been met well, with a huge number of good quality colour photographs, diagnostic images and diagrams. Each chapter is concise, well written and easy to read. It is possible to dip into the book, read a chapter and gain an overview of a subject very quickly. It



comprehensively covers a wide range of commonly encountered problems, and some of the rarer yet still important conditions in each sub-specialty. It also includes good sections on some of the 'normal' aspects of child health, including growth and development, nutrition, health promotion and accident prevention.

Some sections are slightly brief at times, for example the rheumatology chapter, but for a small textbook aiming to provide an introduction to paediatrics, it is neither possible nor desirable to cover every minutia in great detail.

This would be an excellent addition to any budding paediatrician's library, particularly those studying for MRCPCH and DCH, but would also be useful for undergraduates, GPs and anyone else involved in the medical care of children.

*Rachel Bebb, Southmead Hospital, Bristol*

## Excessive Appetites: A Psychological View of Addictions

Jim Orford

John Wiley & Sons Ltd 2001

Price £29.95. Pp 406

ISBN 0 471 98231 8

This is a thorough revision of Professor Orford's best-known work. Its subject area is broad, covering over-exercise, eating problems, hypersexuality and compulsive gambling, in addition to the chemical addictions of drink and drugs.

Jim Orford's grasp of his chosen field is impressive by any standard, and this enables him to avoid the academic trap of favouring one's own particular sphere of expertise (the effect of addiction on the family, in Orford's case) to the detriment of balanced exploration.

As the title suggests, the book's focus is fundamentally psychological. The author's command of this arena is second to none; he dissects and analyses numerous pieces of research, offering an incisive selection of perspectives and interpretations. But for all this microscopic work, Orford consistently reminds both himself and the reader of the super-scientific influences of time, money and propaganda,

which question modern assumptions about the 'pathology' of individual activities. Nuggets such as the facts that in 17th century England adultery was punishable by death, that younger British men of low social status who die are up to 20 times more likely to be recorded as dying from alcohol-related causes than professional males of the same age; and that more Colombians die from smoking US tobacco than do Americans from use of Colombian cocaine, help to broaden the whole scope of this work.

If the book has any weakness, it is in the neurobiology of addiction. In discounting part of withdrawal-avoidance theory, I believe that the author underestimates the persistence of effect of pre-existent drug use. He also appears at one point to mistake the neurobiological action of alcohol for opiates.

These minor misgivings aside, *Excessive Appetites* confirms itself as the foremost British book on addiction. In fact, it stands with Vaillant's *The Natural History of Alcoholism* and Linström's *Managing Alcoholism* as one of the three most important works in the field from the past 20 years.

*Dave Marteau, Clinical Substance Misuse Specialist, Prison Service, London*

## Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology for the MRCOG and Beyond

Anne S Garden, Joanne Topping

RCOG Press 2001

Price £21.50. Pp 96

ISBN 1 900364 36 0

The area of paediatric adolescent gynaecology is under-represented in the provision of a shortened and heavily structured specialist registrar training programme. By contrast, this area contains all the basic physiology and pathophysiological mechanisms that account for a significant number of adult problems in gynaecology. A review text on paediatric and adolescent gynaecology is therefore very welcome at this stage.

Anne Garden and Joanne Topping have done an excellent job in bringing together topics of interest which are easily explainable by using diagram and algorithms. The text is compact and easy to read, and as a result the information it contains is easy to assimilate. It will make a difficult area easier to understand for trainees in obstetrics and gynaecology and the book comes highly recommended.

*Roy G Farquharson, Liverpool Women's Hospital, Liverpool*

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### **Clinical Governance and Revalidation: A Practical Guide for Radiologists**

Editors by Gerald De Lacey, Ray Godwin, Adrian Manhire  
Royal College of Radiologists 2000  
Price £25.00. Pp 120  
ISBN 1 872599 65 6

This is the first account of clinical governance that I have read that makes any significant sense. The overall format of this book is along the lines of a previous manual on clinical audit by the same authors and issued by the Royal College of Radiologists.

The issues of clinical governance and revalidation are dealt with by essential basic core audits dealing with the patient's view, clinical incident reporting and perceived quality of help and advice to other doctors. Each audit describes a background, the full audit cycle and an indication of the resources needed.

Further audits are primarily orientated towards specific clinical areas investigating effectiveness, service quality and departmental organization. I have found the recipe format of this manual extremely helpful and have applied a number of the audits, all of which have proven most useful. The audit regarding perceived quality of help and advice to other doctors was both informative and most entertaining.

This manual which is specifically aimed at departments of radiology is an

essential guide for all departments walking down the avenue of clinical governance and revalidation. The manual can be worked through methodically or dipped into when appropriate, and I would say it was an essential part of every radiology department's library.  
*HG Lewis-Jones, University Hospital Aintree, Liverpool*

### **Medical Appraisal, Selection and Revalidation**

John Gatrell, Tony White  
Royal Society of Medicine Press 2000  
Price £12.95. Pp 63  
ISBN 1 85315 400 8

Confusion still whirls around the terms 'appraisal' and 'assessment' in medical training, even in the upper reaches of the General Medical Council and the British Medical Association. The new priorities mandated by the revalidation of doctors have compounded the felony.

The term 'educational appraisal' should be used to describe the confidential and developmental system of regular objective setting and feedback between doctors in all grades and their educational supervisors. 'Summative assessment' of specialist doctors in training refers chiefly to the production of written judgmental evidence of progress and problems which is provided by educational supervisors, or unit training directors, or, occasionally, by training programme directors, at the end of each training placement.

The RITA process is not in itself an assessment of the doctor. Annual appraisal of consultants and non-consultant career grades is best described as 'performance appraisal' or 'management appraisal'. Although intended to be confidential and developmental, it should relate performance to the aims of the organization as well as the objectives of the individual, and provide evidence for revalidation.

This small book aims to review medical appraisal, selection and revalidation, which is an ambitious agenda. The process of the appraisal interview is well described, but the distinction between this, and its crucial interdependence with, summative assessment is passed over very briefly and rather confusingly.

The chapter on equal opportunities is vestigially short. The section on selection interviews and application forms draws heavily on current procedures for specialist registrar appointments in the North Thames Deanery, and is none the worse for that, and it provides a good short guide to best practice. The coverage of revalidation is brief, presumably because this is still in evolution.

A full description of all the processes touched on in this book needs more space. It does not help to clear up some of the semantic confusions which still exist. I cannot recommend it.

*George Cowan, Medical Director,  
Joint Committee on Higher Medical  
Training, London*

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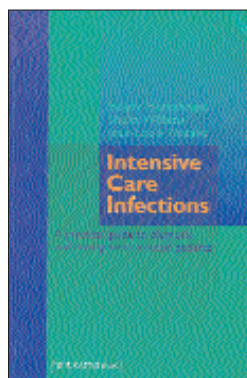
### **Intensive Care Infections: a practical guide to diagnosis and management in adult patients**

Hilary Humphreys, Sheila Willatts, Jean-Louis Vincent

WB Saunders 2001  
Price £24.95. Pp 225  
ISBN 070202242X

Pressure on intensive care beds and recent government interest in the cost of hospital-acquired infection makes this book very topical. Its title is self-explanatory and in the words of a well-known advert, 'It does exactly what it says on the tin'.

It is split into two sections. The first section defines the various terms used to describe infection, how infections arise, what the body's response to infection is and how an intensive care unit may pose a special risk to a critically ill patient. It then goes on to explain how to diagnose, manage and prevent infections in broad general terms. The second section takes a



system-based approach looking in more detail at specific pathogens involved at various sites, how these may be identified and what role antibiotics may play in the treatment of each infection.

The book's easy-to-read format is complemented by key points summarizing important information at the end of each chapter. Easy reference tables are also used to aid rapid access of management advice. The authors have used an evidence base for their recommendations where possible, and it is pleasing to see up-to-date studies referenced.

For those new to the intensive care setting, whether nursing or medical, this is a good tutor and for the more experienced it is a nice summary and reference guide. This book should find its way onto the shelves of many intensive care physicians, anaesthetists, infectious diseases physicians, clinical microbiologists and their trainees. Who knows, it may even be read by surgeons!

*Donald Dobie, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham*