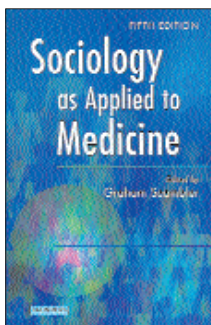


Sociology as Applied to Medicine (5th edn)

Graham Scambler
Saunders 2003
Price £16.99. Pp 344
ISBN 0702026654

Now in its fifth edition this thorough and detailed text provides medical students and other health professionals with a comprehensive introduction into the world of sociology in the context of medicine. It identifies how a wide variety of social and environmental factors (e.g. gender, race, age, culture, class, ethnicity, poverty) affect and are affected by medical practice and service provision, and should help the reader understand a little more about why people behave as they do in the health-care context. That five editions have been produced since the initial publication in 1982 gives a



hint as to how fast this field has expanded and how important it has become.

The book is divided into four sections: social aspects of disease, social factors in medical practice, social structure and health, and the social process of defining disease and organization of health services. It is largely written by UK practitioners and therefore highly applicable to the UK health system.

Although dense, the text is well referenced, (with chapters in this edition having either been brought right up to date or completely rewritten), and well formatted, allowing easy search for particular pieces of information.

This thought-provoking book would make valuable reading to medical and other health students, clinicians and researchers and would be a very useful addition to any library.
Sarah Helps, South London and Maudsley NHS Trust

The Infectious Complications of Renal Disease

Edited by Paul Sweny, Robert Rubin and Nina Tolkoff-Rubin
Oxford University Press 2003
Price £85.00. Pp 458
ISBN 0192632949

This book provides an excellent companion to the everyday work of a nephrologist in Britain today. Aimed at registrars and consultants the text offers a concise explanation of the infective diseases, followed by a realistic and comprehensive management plan.

Divided into three parts, part I focuses on the basic science of infection and the immune system taking each domain of renal medicine in turn, chronic renal failure followed by the renal replacement modalities – peritoneal dialysis, haemodialysis and transplantation. Keeping with this format, part II discusses particular renal pathologies and renal replacement modalities and their associated complications. The chapters start with basic explanations of the condition and then proceed into clinical presentation and management in a very comprehensive fashion. Part III is a collection of important related topics.

The layout is clear and easy to read, with each chapter complete in itself. This can lead to repetition if the same infective process involves more than one

renal pathology. There is a lack of visual material, i.e. radiographs, diagrams and Gram stains. Notable by its absence is any discussion of adult polycystic kidney disease or reflux nephropathy.

These points aside this is an excellent text with extensive references, linking basic science with everyday clinical scenarios. It will be an invaluable text for nephrologists for many years to come.

Helen Campbell, Hull & East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Managing Obstetric Emergencies and Trauma: the MOET Course Manual

Edited by Richard Johanson, Charles Cox, Kate Grady, Charlotte Howell
RCOG Press 2003
Price £44.00. Pp 352
ISBN 1900364700

The MOET course is a joint obstetric/anaesthetic project developed to train labour ward medical staff in advanced life support techniques. Although produced to accompany the course, this book easily stands alone as a training manual for obstetricians of all grades. Clearly written by educationalists, it has a concise, authoritative text and uses bullet points, diagrams, algorithms and frequent mnemonics to help memorize emergency procedures.

All the obstetric emergencies and resuscitation are covered as well as some basic trauma. The advice given is highly practical and ranges from tips to help with the delivery of the impacted head at caesarean, to suggested questions to find out if a woman is in a violent relationship. Some of the chapters contain innovations sections on 'topics for audit' and 'current debates'. Combined with a list of nearly 400 references it all adds up to a highly readable and educational book.

Some obstetric readers will find the trauma section unnecessary and will be surprised at the odd choice of photographs that liberally pepper the book's text. These poor-quality 'snaps' are of students taking part in one of the courses. They do little to illustrate the text and only serve to give an amateur feel to the book. It is sad that the space and colour were not used for diagrams and photos relevant to the text.

However, this should not detract from the high quality of this book which sets a new standard for educational manuals and which should run to many editions. I would advise all obstetricians, both trainers and trainees, to get a copy. Or better still; book your place on the course itself before it becomes compulsory for revalidation.

Andrew Weeks, Liverpool Women's Hospital