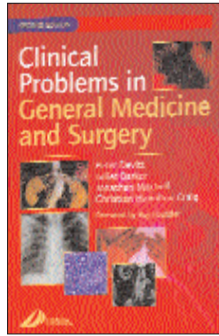


Clinical Problems in General Medicine and Surgery (2nd edn)

Peter Devitt, Juliet Barker, Jonathan Mitchell,
Christian Hamilton-Craig
Churchill Livingstone 2003
Price £24.99. Pp 410
ISBN 0443073236

This is the second edition of a popular revision tool aimed primarily at medical students and those in the early stages of their medical careers. It sticks to the original format of case presentations using 'real life' scenarios, interspersed with questions and answers.

It covers a wide range of commonly occurring problems that the junior doctor may face in the emergency department, wards or outpatients, including common perioperative problems, medical emergencies and some cases of trauma. It is presented with clear histories, observation charts and investi-



gation results shown where appropriate (including radiology). For those who are keen it suggests sources for further reading, including web sites.

The questions encourage the reader to consider the differential diagnoses, further investigations and management. The answer sections are comprehensive without relying purely on lists.

In the foreword it claims that its first edition 'is the single book that got me through Finals' and having read the second edition I can well believe this bold claim. Although it may be a little basic

for those studying for Membership examinations or beyond, it is nice to be able to formulate what appear to be reasonable answers for cases that may not be in your usual field.

I would strongly recommend this book to those approaching finals, particularly with the advent of the OSCE.

Dan O'Carroll, Alexandra Hospital, Redditch

Respiratory Critical Care

Edited by Craig Davidson and
David Treacher
Arnold 2002
Price £65.00 Pp 307
ISBN 0340762896

Intensive care is one of the youngest specialities within the hospital environment, and is becoming more popular among junior medical and nursing staff. This text brings together the knowledge of over 35 experts from around the world, and addresses the respiratory aspects of critical care medicine.

One of the most evident features of this book is its unambiguous and concise coverage of the physiology of the normal and diseased systems. Built on to this is well-organized, well-presented clinical medicine, adequately backed up with sound references.

The material within will appeal to most audiences, whatever their level of understanding. A chapter on monitoring describes the science behind arterial blood-gas analysis, pulse oximetry and lung function tests in such a fashion that the novice will learn the basics, and the more advanced reader will acquire a deeper understanding. Other chapters on ventilation, respiratory emergencies, pneumonias, pleural disease, and pulmonary embolism and pulmonary hypertension are equally as robust.

This book has a much wider market than just intensive care, and much of the material is fundamental to ward-based medicine, and primary care; embarrassment of the respiratory system is both very common and life-threatening, and often easily reversible.

Respiratory Critical Care clearly and comprehensively reviews the most important topics in the field, and provides the reader with a sound account of the basic sciences and clinical input needed to manage patients with acute respiratory disease.

James S Dawson, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham

Incontinence in Women

Edited by Allan B MacLean and
Linda Cardozo
RCOG Press 2002
Price £48.00. Pp 458
ISBN 1900364670

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has created study groups of experts in their fields to discuss evidence and clinical practice within the speciality for 30 years. *Incontinence in Women* results from the latest of these groups.

This book embraces important subjects and provides considerable depth. Basic science, imaging, strategies for prevention, conservative and surgical

interventions are covered. The book consists of chapters grouped together followed by transcripts of discussions by these experts, which allow the reader to understand controversies and outstanding issues – one of the book's strengths.

The book should be of interest to many groups outside obstetrics and gynaecology including GPs, geriatricians, midwives, physiotherapists and continence advisors. Most topics are covered lucidly and in detail. Unusually, the management of incontinence is not presented according to diagnosis, perhaps because there is much overlap in treatment between diagnostic groups. This leads to some subjects being presented in a rather fragmented way and in insufficient depth, e.g. the use of anticholinergic drugs is covered in three separate chapters. The impact of pregnancy and childbirth on the lower urinary tract and anorectal function features prominently.

Faecal incontinence is included with respect to its obstetric aetiology, repair of third degree tears and management following childbirth. This is welcome as it is little covered by obstetrics and gynaecology textbooks. The book's relatively modest price makes it excellent value for money.

Vanessa Lawton, Liverpool Women's Hospital