

## **Textbook of Adult Emergency Medicine (2nd edn)**

Edited by Peter Cameron, George Jelinek, Anne-Maree Kelly, Lindsay Murray, Anthony FT Brown, John Heyworth  
Churchill Livingstone 2004  
Price £45.99. Pp 934  
ISBN 0443072892

With the specialty of emergency medicine expanding rapidly throughout the world, the authors have tried to produce a textbook that is up to date and relevant in the UK and other countries. They have achieved this by using over 100 experts in various fields and manipulating their knowledge into a generic format that is easy to read and concise.

The book is aimed specifically at emergency medicine trainees, but can be used by nurse practitioners, consultants and students. The sections cover systems and specialities, divided into specific topics pertinent to emergency medicine. For example, the cardiovascular and respiratory sections are more detailed than the genitourinary section, reflecting the types of patients seen in the emergency department.



The chapters have been written to the same template: introduction, specific disease/disorder, clinical features, investigations and management. There are numerous boxes of lists interspersed in the rather dry text, with no glossy photos and very few diagrams. The information is presented neatly and to the point, but can be hard to read and is probably designed more as a rapid reference tool. References and suggested further reading are presented at the end of each chapter, along with a section entitled 'controversies', designed to inform the reader of any subject matter that lacks good evidence or where there are currently differing opinions.

The layout is identical to the first edition, but some information has been updated, and there are new sections on orthopaedic emergencies and research methodology, and a vastly improved toxicology section. This is an excellent textbook for emergency trainees for referencing and revision, but the style of the book will not suit everyone.

*Chris Hetherington, Walsall Manor Hospital, Walsall, West Midlands*

## **OSCEs for Psychiatric Trainees (vol 1)**

Jaap van de Boom, Joseph Tony, Srinivasa Thirumalai  
MA Healthcare 2003  
Price £24.99. Pp 109  
ISBN 1856422712

'Can't we just practice the questions in the books?', a Part 1 MRCPsych trainee recently asked. Would that she could; but the back catalogue of exam preparation books for the new OSCE has yet to accumulate. Any new source of practice material will therefore be welcomed.

This book, by three specialist registrars, is pragmatic in its focus. After a brief introduction, the book consists of 45 OSCE questions on history, examination, procedure and communication skills. Tutors looking for theoretical background will be disappointed, but trainees looking to practice the questions in the books will be happier.

The division into separate sections for candidate questions, actor's briefing and examiner instructions might frustrate the lonely crammer. If used to organize practice within a study group, however, trainees could swap between roles and learn from all three perspectives.

Fidelity to the exam as we know it may not be this book's strength. Will candidates really be asked specifically to use the MMSE, or take both a history and physical examination for anorexia within 7 minutes? The candidate and role player's instructions are mostly slight, but adequate for informal practice. Conversely, the marking schedules seem misleadingly detailed. They are, however, the most instructive part, best read as a guide on how to perform rather than how to mark.

The volume is slim and not cheap, but a study group could share their copy. They will find plenty to do within its pages.

*Iain Pryde, Bracton Centre, Dartford*

## **Practical Management of Dementia: a Multiprofessional Approach**

Edited by Stephen Curran and John Wattis  
Radcliffe 2004  
Price £28.99. Pp 237  
ISBN 1 85775 931 1

Wide-ranging problems of dementia require multidisciplinary management. Interprofessional working will improve if the professions understand each other's background.

This multi-authored book, edited by two eminent psychogeriatricians, has 16 chapters written by members of various disciplines, including an interesting chapter on spiritual aspects of management of dementia.

Different aspects of this book include a discussion of the limitations of psychological tests and therapies, the physician's role in managing delirium and physical illnesses accompanying dementia and management of treatable dementias, and a chapter about the GP's role in early diagnosis and timely referral of patients to specialists.

Further chapters cover the nurse's role generally and also in conflict resolution in the family, and the place of occupational therapists in helping patients to use their skills to function in their physical and social environment. The roles of other professionals (e.g. geneticists, pharmacist) are also highlighted.

The tables and figures are appropriate, and the list of references is comprehensive and useful. This book is recommended to all those who care for dementia patients.

*Shahrina N Nabi, Rotherham District General Hospital, Rotherham*