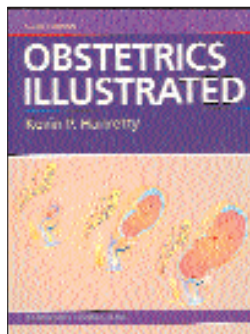


Obstetrics Illustrated (6th edn)

Kevin P Hanretty
Churchill Livingstone 2003
Price £29.99. Pp 437
ISBN 0443072671

This book is an illustrative representation of common problems and normal development of pregnancy. It takes the reader through pregnancy in a systematic order. Each page deals with a separate topic, using illustrations to augment the information. The factual information is concise yet informative. A page informing the reader of relevant websites is a useful addition. The book covers the length and breadth of obstetrics including the physiology of reproduction, fetal and



maternal physiology and medical disorders. There is a separate section dedicated to the newborn baby as well as contraception.

The author has altered this edition to reflect our changing practice resulting from the influx of women from other parts of the world. The illustrations are drawn by a medical artist and are a real adjunct to the written information. Where required, ultrasound images are used as illustrations.

The book is ideally suited to medical students, student midwives and clinicians who need a quick aide memoir.

Devender Roberts, Liverpool Women's Hospital

Evidence-Based Cardiology (2nd edn)

Edited by Salim Yusuf, John A Cairns, A John Camm, Ernest L Fallon, Bernard J Gersh
BMJ Publishing Group 2002
Price £90.00. Pp 968
ISBN 0727916998

Salim Yusuf and colleagues have now produced the second edition of *Evidence-Based Cardiology*, 5 years after the first. This comprehensive 'heavy-weight' text acts as a useful reference for those analysing the evidence base for current cardiology clinical practice. The book is split into four sections. The first discusses general concepts and analytical tools used in clinical epidemiology. The second covers the evidence base underlying preventive cardiology. The third and largest section covers specific cardiovascular disorders in 37 chapters. The final section attempts to address 11 clinical areas using evidence discussed in the previous sections.

This book will be attractive for those with an interest in clinical epidemiology and will be useful for staff responsible for health-care planning. The best current evidence has been thoroughly researched and is comprehensively presented. As a result the text is somewhat overloaded with information ranging from basic scientific analysis to randomized controlled trials.

I found the text difficult to use to guide clinical practice. Because evi-

dence is presented in a discussion format a lot of data are covered before key points are highlighted. However, the conclusions and key points at the end of the chapters are extremely useful.

An obvious criticism of textbooks is that by definition they lag behind the newest evidence published in peer-reviewed journals. In an attempt to address this the authors have provided access via a CD to a website which will be updated regularly.

This book will be a useful reference to research evidence underlying specific management problems. It is probably less useful as an everyday clinical tool.

Nick Robinson, St Bartholomew's Hospital, London

Self-assessment Colour Review of Hepatobiliary Medicine

Roger Chapman and Henry C Bodenheimer
Manson Publishing 2003
Price £16.95. Pp 193
ISBN 1874545480

Many glossy soft-backed books claim to make learning easy and fun. When 'problem based' is also on the cover, antibodies are well and truly formed. It was just as well that I took the role of reviewer seriously and read the book.

The formula is simple: 28 clinicians (16 from North America) have contributed 180 brief clinical vignettes. These are well illustrated with colour pictures of endoscopy, histology or radi-

ology. The reader is then asked a number of questions; answers are given overleaf, together with brief explanations. Clinical scenarios illustrate particular points and cover the very broad spectrum of adult and paediatric liver medicine and surgery. They are easy to read and stimulating, both educational and informative. There are no headings, but this is sensible since it would not reflect reality and would spoil the fun. The two indexes (one on topics and one on classification of cases) are fairly comprehensive although this is not a textbook.

There are a few minor criticisms. There are no references if the reader wants to read more, and the index could be more useful – primary sclerosing cholangitis is under 'c' for cholangitis.

The authors state the book is intended for a wide variety of readers: nurses I showed the book to enjoyed the visual effects but felt that the cases were inappropriate for them. For clinicians, the book will be instructive and entertaining; it is not a book to read from cover to cover, but is great to dip into.

The authors state that the reader will find this broad educational experience both informative and fun – their confidence is not misplaced. At £16.95, the book is good value for money and a way for the training and trained to get up-to-date with the rapidly developing speciality of hepatology. I recommend it.

James Neuberger, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham