

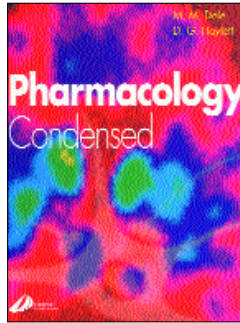
Pharmacology Condensed

MM Dale and DG Haylett
Churchill Livingstone 2004
Price £15.99. Pp 123
ISBN 0443070490

This is the accompaniment to the fourth edition of this text. Having referred to many pharmacology texts during my studies, both for undergraduate and postgraduate exams, this offers a unique depth into the subject.

The striking thing about this text is that it presents a fantastic array of detailed, easy to understand and, more importantly, easy to memorize illustrations and flow diagrams. Many readers find that reams of text can become extremely tedious, and so the breaks in the text with catchy illustrations makes a welcome change.

The drugs are well classified and the chapters are broken down into body systems. Each chapter has useful boxed



gambits within, illustrating clinical uses of the drugs and the introductions to each chapter beautifully outline the physiology of the system concerned so that the actions of the drugs can be appreciated. The text is amazingly up to date, even discussing the use of cannabis as an anti-emetic.

This is an extremely useful text for undergraduates and postgraduates alike. In retrospect, this text would have been invaluable in preparation for not only the MRCP but also the primary

FRCA exam in anaesthesia, as this demands a detailed knowledge of pharmacology. The original full text was a well written and invaluable source for reference, but in parts I found it too long-winded and at times it caused confusion. This accompanying text is succinct and entirely cuts to the chase, so my advice is 'buy it'.

Jonny Wilkinson, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham

Clinical Hypertension in Practice

Gregory YH Lip
The Royal Society of Medicine Press
2003
Price £14.95. Pp 103
ISBN 1853154857

Aimed at GPs and hospital doctors alike, this book answers the questions of who to treat with hypertension and when to treat hypertension. The format is concise and easy to read, thus making it a useful clinical tool and valued point of reference. Whenever possible, the text is supported by evidence from randomized trials, all of which are clearly referenced. To ease understanding, the data are presented both graphically and in a tabulated format, and are usually the end point of clinical trials. In addition most pages also have a box in which the salient piece of information for that page is highlighted. Each chapter then ends with a list of suggested further reading and references.

The format of the book is logical, starting with the epidemiology and pathophysiology of hypertension and then extending into the clinical assessment and treatment options. Following this are chapters on special patient groups including diabetes mel-

litus, the elderly, renal disease and many others. Pregnancy and hypertension is covered, as well as the hypertensive emergencies.

This is a highly practical aid to treating patients with hypertension with all the up-to-date guidelines and trial data to hand.

Helen Campbell, Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust

Lecture Notes on Geriatric Medicine (6th edn)

N Coni, C Nicholl, S Webster,
KJ Wilson
Blackwell 2003
Price £16.95. Pp 184
ISBN 1405101628

Geriatric medicine is often overlooked and included simply as part of general medicine teaching as a whole. The significant differences to adult medicine are frequently not appreciated until you become a preregistration house officer on a geriatric ward and wish you'd known about this book before.

This book appeals straight away because it is thin and refreshingly to the point. The first few chapters provide a useful insight into the minefield of the social services and facilities available outside of the hospital setting.

The chapters are concise and cover all the body systems with good background physiology. The clinical features of specific illnesses are described in most cases. Practical management plans for the more common problems are included. Of particular value are the detailed drug treatments for frequently occurring diseases such as Parkinson's disease, which few books cover in as much detail.

The best feature of this book is that the many social, psychiatric and ethical aspects of geriatric medicine are comprehensively covered without being boring. The legal and ethical chapter is especially good at answering common questions that always crop up in medical school exams and, more practically, on the wards.

A couple of examples of case histories were included. As well as adding interest, these are generally good aids to memory and I would like to see more of them in future editions.

This is an ideal book either to dip in and out of, or to read in a longer stretch, as it holds your attention. An added bonus is that the authors clearly have a good sense of humour.

Claire Vandeveld, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham