

PARTNERSHIP TAXATION

Edward E. Ray

HFL (Publishers) Ltd
London (1978)

409 pages. Price £10

There are not many general practitioners who, without prompting, would be attracted to read a book which deals solely with taxation as it relates to partnerships. However, most of us now practise in partnership, and an increasing number are practising in large partnerships where tax problems associated with retirement, formation of new partnerships, and different types of partnership, arise more often.

For a doctor, or practice manager, who is looking for a path through the jungle, this book can be recommended as up to date, accurate, and moderately readable.

R. V. H. JONES

THE MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN

Selwyn M. Smith (Ed.)

MTP Press
Lancaster (1978)

452 pages. Price £12.95

Sir Stanley Davidson's *Principles and Practice of Medicine* (1977) is the best medical textbook that I have read. However, Dr Smith's book must run it a close second. It is without doubt an important book which will interest not only doctors but health visitors, social workers, and all those involved in the care of children.

It is by no means an easy book to read; because it is so comprehensive, it is very detailed and also there are many unpleasant aspects of the subject which the reader has to face.

The problem of the maltreated child is a relatively recent syndrome and much has yet to be learned about it. Dr Smith has tackled the problem by inviting experts in paediatrics, psychiatry, psychology, law, and social work to contribute their own ideas and methods of handling battered children and their families, and on the whole this has worked well. Obviously there is some repetition but since the points made are given from different points of view, this is no great fault.

The extent of the problem (probably 700 deaths per year in the UK alone) staggered me. If one accepts that deaths

are only the tip of the iceberg then the scale of the problem is shattering. Possibly the most worrying aspect is that doctors still do not appear to recognize such children until something serious happens, or if they do, they are unwilling to become involved. A high level of suspicion is necessary but once suspicion is aroused, what then? This book gives many ideas on how to cope with varying degrees of the problem, from the mother who confesses a fear of hurting her baby to the seriously assaulted child.

There are numerous references at the end of each chapter and there is a full appendix and glossary.

This is such a good book that I unhesitatingly recommend it to fellow practitioners. My only criticism is that there is no contribution from a general practitioner. I do not like to think that as a specialty we could not write authoritatively about child abuse, and in fact the College has published a policy statement on the subject which is well worth reading (Royal College of General Practitioners, 1976).

JOHN DRUMMOND

References

- Macleod, J. (Ed.) (1977). *Davidson's Principles and Practice of Medicine*. 12th edition. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone.
Royal College of General Practitioners (1976). Ill-treated children. *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, 26, 804-815.

A NEW APPROACH TO MEDICINE

John Fry

MTP Press Limited
Lancaster, England (1978)

154 pages. Price £6.96

Few general practitioners can have used their record systems to such effect as has John Fry. Following the publication of his classic study *The Catarrhal Child* there have been several other publications showing the benefit of a lifetime's study of illness within one practice.

The present volume entitled *A New Approach to Medicine* is Fry's attempt to put his record system into the framework of modern medicine and medical practice against a background of international comparisons.

The book is, in fact, not a 'new' approach, but a broad and, I feel,

rather superficial look at modern medical practice. The author quotes extensively from other authors so that general practitioners who have read those other authors may feel, as I did, that they have heard it all before.

For the new entrant to general practice, it would be worthwhile reading but it would be important to follow up his 'further reading' suggestions, especially *Trends in General Practice* and Hicks' *Primary Health Care*.

M. J. WHITFIELD

References

- Fry, J. (1961). *The Catarrhal Child*. London: Butterworths.
Hicks, D. (1976). *Primary Health Care*. London: HMSO.
Royal College of General Practitioners (1977). *Trends in General Practice*. London: *British Medical Journal*.

IMMUNISATION

George Dick

Update Publications Ltd
London (1978)

160 pages. Price £4.20

Undoubtedly the development of immunization and vaccination procedures has been one of the most striking features in the control of infectious diseases in the twentieth century and a common problem facing general practitioners today is advising patients about the pros and cons of various immunization procedures. This book, therefore, is particularly welcome as it provides a concise and readable account of immunization procedures throughout the world.

It begins with a general introduction to the subject, outlining various vaccination and immunization schedules, and goes on to describe various diseases and the vaccines that have been developed to combat them. The concluding chapters deal with vaccines for travel, vaccines for selective use, passive immunization, and immunization in tropical environments. The author is able to draw on a wealth of research experience and writes in a clear and lucid style.

This book is thoroughly recommended to every general practitioner and could well find a place on the practice bookshelf. It should certainly be read by trainees and would be of interest to practice nurses and other staff concerned with immunization procedures.

PAUL GROB