
GENERAL PRACTICE LITERATURE

BOOKS REVIEWED

THE DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

Paul Freeling and Conrad M. Harris

Churchill Livingstone
Edinburgh (1983)

145 pages. Price £5.95

DOCTOR-PATIENT COMMUNICATION

David Pendleton and John Hasler (editors)

Academic Press
London (1983)

293 pages. Price £16.80

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue. Two books on a similar theme arrived for review at the same time. They make an attractive pair. The old blue book has a new face with Conrad Harris joining Paul Freeling as co-author of *The Doctor-patient relationship*. In its first edition this was a classic of the 1960s, a time the authors themselves referred to as the euphoric period of general practice in the United Kingdom. The late 70s they describe as a period of sanguine responsibility. Perhaps the early 80s are simply bloody-minded.

Although Harris and Freeling have remained faithful to the original concept of teaching from case histories, they have extended the range of the book considerably. They hope to reach a wide audience; medical students, general practitioners, as well as nonmedical readers. They deal successfully with the subtleties of the doctor-patient relationship in an eminently readable fashion.

The new book, *Doctor-patient communication*, may also become a classic of general practice literature. It is a multi-author book with a wide view of the different settings and purposes of doctor-patient interactions. It includes solid contributions from well established writers and thought-provoking chapters from less well known authors. The chapter on health beliefs is a good example of new ways in thinking about peoples' behaviour; the author reviews the devel-

opment of the concept of health beliefs and demonstrates its relevance and importance in determining the outcome of consultations. The co-editors of the book, John Hasler and David Pendleton, as well as contributing to the book, have integrated the chapters of other authors into an excellent volume. The book is one result of the continuing collaboration between behavioural science and general practice.

General practice viewed through the eyes of psychologists and sociologists has stimulated new ideas about the complicated relationship between patients and doctors. The two books differ considerably in their approach and style. They deserve to be widely read.

E.G.B.

A CRY FOR HEALTH Poverty and Disability in the Third World

Oliver Shirley (editor)

Third World Group for Disabled People and AHRTAG
Somerset and London (1983)

96 pages. Price £2.50 (paperback)

'Disability in the third world is largely a social, political and economic disease': these are the words with which Medawar opens his chapter entitled 'The disabled consumer; how multi-national corporations affect the third world'. His contribution encapsulates the argument of the whole book. Fifteen short chapters by doctors and administrators embrace four themes: the international perspective, preventing disability, rehabilitation and health resources. The last is a moving account by David Werner of his success in establishing health care to overcome disability where there is no doctor. It is difficult to know who is the intended audience, since the text is pitched at a number of different levels: 'pathogen' is defined in a footnote, yet the meaning of 'enterotoxigenic *E.coli*' goes unremarked five lines further on. Doctors would certainly be interested to read *A Cry for health*. It should not be supposed, however, that the cry can be answered by doctors, except through their influence on politicians. Buy a copy and send it to your MP with a persuasive covering letter.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

PRACTICAL RHEUMATOLOGY, Timothy M. Spiegel (editor), Wiley, Chichester, 1983. 383 pages. Price £28.45.

CLINICAL INTERPRETATION OF LABORATORY TESTS (9th edition), Frances K. Widmann, F. A. Davis, Philadelphia, 1983. 602 pages. Price \$21.00.

TUTORIALS IN GENERAL PRACTICE, Michael Mead and Henry Patterson, Pitman, London, 1983. 142 pages. Price £9.95 (paperback).

CLINICAL EMBRYOLOGY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS (3rd edition), Richard S. Snell, Little Brown, Boston, 1983. 463 pages. Price \$26.25.

CURRENT MEDICINE, Vol 1, Garry L. Gitnick (editor), Wiley, Chichester, 1983. 340 pages. Price £33.25.

PSYCHOTHERAPY WITH SEVERELY DEPRIVED CHILDREN, Mary Boston and Rolene Szur (editors), Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1983. 144 pages. Price £5.95 (paperback).

CONSENT IN MEDICINE. Convergence and divergence in tradition, G. R. Dunstan and Mary J. Sellar (editors), Oxford University Press, 1983. 128 pages. Price £8.50.

LETTERS TO A YOUNG DOCTOR. Articles from the BMJ. Philip Rhodes, BMJ, London, 1983. 127 pages. Price £5.50 (paperback).

REHABILITATION AND ACQUIRED DEAFNESS. William J. Watts (editor), Croom Helm, Beckenham, 1983. 261 pages. Price £15.95 (hardback).

ICHPPC-2-DEFINED. International Classification of Health Problems in Primary Care (3rd edition), Oxford University Press, 1983. 214 pages. Price £10.00 (paperback).

STROKE CARE. An interdisciplinary approach, Gill Lubbock (editor), Faber, London, 1983. 252 pages. Price £4.95 (paperback).

THE HEALTH OF CHINA. Current conflicts in medical and human services for one billion people, Ruth and Victor Sidel, Zed Press, London, 1983. 140 pages. Price £6.50 (paperback); £16.95 (hardback).

THE EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING, Isca Salzberger-Wittenberg, Gianna Henry and Elsie Osborne, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1983. 154 pages. Price £5.95 (paperback).

PROBLEMS IN SOCIAL CARE, Roslyn H. Corney, MTP Press, Lancaster, 1983. 178 pages. Price £7.95.