



RUNNING A COURSE

*Keith Bolden, Declan Dwyer, Richard Leete and Russell Steele
Radcliffe Medical Press, Oxford (1988)
113 pages. Price £8.50*

When I became a course organizer, like most people I thrashed around for a while learning by trial and error. Eventually I read a copy of the College's *Occasional paper 4, A system of training for general practice*, describing the Exeter vocational training scheme. From then on life became a little easier. I was therefore very interested to read this book, *Running a course*, which comes from the same scheme in Exeter and is designed to be a guide for course organizers. I have to say at once that it succeeds admirably as a practical guide. There are clear chapters on the nuts and bolts of planning a half day release course and on the various educational methods that can be employed. Particularly enjoyable was the chapter entitled 'Personal milestones of a group leader', a traumatic journey for most of us. This chapter was written in the first person but we are not told which of the authors wrote it. I suppose personal assessment is a little painful. There are comprehensive appendices giving examples of parts of the Exeter course and examples of assessment and feedback questionnaires. All newly appointed course organizers should read this book. Many of the 'old lags' will also find it useful.

ROBERT WALKER
General Practitioner, Workington

STUDENT REVIEWS — PRIMARY CARE

*Brian Jarman
Heinemann, London (1988)
195 pages. Price £7.95*

This book begins with an account of the development of general practice in the United Kingdom, giving a logical, detailed, historical background which provides a perspective on the recent government proposals outlined in their white paper on primary health care.

The chapter on education and training is simple and concise, but lacks details on current methods of vocational training. However, the chapter on social and economic factors in ill health is one of the strengths of the book. It gives an excellent interpretation of the Black report, the Seebohm report and various MORI polls and Department of Health and Social Security studies.

Following this general background the book then aims more specifically at general practice with an excellent consideration of epidemiology and prevention in general practice. This, in common with many other chapters would be suitable as a summary of the subject for general practitioner trainees or for established general practitioners wanting to update their knowledge.

The 17 pages on the consultation are a joy to read as they crystallize what takes several hours of video analysis, teaching and discussion on most vocational training courses. The chapter devoted to prescribing is up to date, mentioning the PACT package recently introduced by the DHSS and product liability law. This section gives clear data on the economics, practicalities, and administration of prescribing.

Another chapter covers the theory of holistic medicine from Illich and McKeown through Engel to alternative medicine and a brief description of each of the most popular alternative therapies is given. While of interest, the chapter on primary health care in developing countries may seem out of place to the majority of medical students considering primary care as a career.

The book is clearly and concisely written, the bibliography at the end of each chapter is handy for reference, and the index is adequate.

PAUL PRESLEY
Course Organizer, Gloucestershire Vocational Training Scheme

REHABILITATION OF THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED ADULT

*C. John Goodwill and M. Anne Chamberlain
Croom Helm, London (1988)
881 pages. Price £24.50 (paperback), £55.00 (hardback)*

A variety of professionals have contributed to this book — doctors, nurses, therapists, psychologists, social service department staff — all working in various aspects of rehabilitation within the United Kingdom. The target audience is equally multi-professional, but from a general practitioner's point of view the book provides a constant reminder that a considerable amount of the management of long-term severe disability is as much concerned with the adaptation of the environment to the individual as it is with the therapeutic attack on the patient. Throughout the book we are reminded about the many non-medical aspects of care that can improve the quality of life of the individual and importantly of his or her family.

Particular emphasis is given to the management of neurological disorders, which, in spite of being numerically much less common than musculoskeletal problems, cause a far greater overall problem in management. The availability of the various supportive services are detailed and the book forms a useful reference to these various resources. General practitioners' ignorance about the functions and availability of so many of these services is in itself a reason for this book to have a place in the practice library.

P.J. SWARBRICK
*General Practitioner, Livingston and
Hospital Practitioner in Rehabilitation, Lothian*