



BOOK AND VIDEO REVIEW



A GUIDE FOR TRAINEES IN GENERAL PRACTICE (2nd edition)

John Fry, Peter Martin, Eric Gambrith, Alistair Moulds, Martin Godfrey and Gilliam Strube
Heinemann Medical Books, Oxford (1989)
211 pages. Price £12.95

This concise handbook is well suited to the needs of the general practitioner trainee. It is easy to read, the text is to the point, the information is well laid out and the chapters have clear headings. No prior knowledge of general practice has been assumed and this makes it particularly useful for doctors entering general practice from hospital appointments. The chapter on bread and butter medicine, for example, gives sound advice on the common problems which sometimes cause the new trainee the most concern. Other chapters deal with such things as telephone techniques and home visiting, teamwork, the National Health Service and management issues. How to make the most of the opportunity for research in general practice and how to meet the needs of the planned professional service are also described.

This book will be of most benefit to the new trainee, but it does provide a good revision framework for those preparing for the MRCP examination. Concluding chapters on the examination and job hunting help to make the book comprehensive. *A guide for trainees in general practice* is now in its second edition and it has been extensively revised and updated to accommodate the changes taking place in general practice. The second edition deserves to be as popular as the first.

KATHRYN DALE

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CARING FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY (2nd edition)

E Idris Williams
Chapman and Hall, London (1989)
283 pages. Price £11.95

This is a timely publication which provides much needed direction to primary care in delivering a service which is sensitive to the needs of older people. The new contract for general practitioners in the UK makes proactive care for older people obligatory. This book considers the special health care needs of very old people and identifies the priorities for changes in the problem of care not only in this country but throughout the world.

As with the first edition, it provides a clear and comprehensive account of the subject. The inclusion of chapters on assessment, the hospital-community interface, clinical aspects and practice strategy are useful additions in this edition. The style and content of the book reflect the personal involvement and experience of Professor Williams as a primary care clinician and

it is not surprising that he seeks to dispel some misconceptions, for example that health is not reflected by levels of mortality and that living alone does not always mean social isolation. The book is concise, practical and easy to read. However, the first chapter on the international scene is rather too compressed and its content is rather disappointing compared with the high standard of information in the remaining chapters.

This is an excellent handbook for all those who are interested in learning to care for elderly people in the community and those who wish to promote this care.

S J JACHUCK

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and director of Care of the Elderly Project*

HANDBOOK OF PEDIATRIC EMERGENCIES

Gregory A Baldwin (ed)
Little, Brown, Boston (1989)
561 pages. Price £19.95

Real childhood emergencies are rare in general practice, but they are a frightening test of our paediatric skills when they occur. Perhaps that is a good reason for possessing a concise and up-to-date handbook to consult should the need arise. However, I doubt if this is the book — it is largely hospital oriented and much of the content is not relevant in the general practice setting. However, there are many sections of general interest and the pages are packed with useful information. It is well indexed and abounds with lists, flow charts and reference tables. And while it is necessarily didactic each section has an up-to-date bibliography. In the reference section on blood chemistry we are told to use red tubes, green tubes, or gray tubes — otherwise the North American terminology is generally familiar.

From my reading I have learnt about intraosseous infusions, and that the pain of bee stings can be helped with a topical antiperspirant. No doubt any reader would find something of interest within its pages, but on the whole the book belongs in the accident and emergency department.

JAMES CAMPBELL

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INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOSEXUAL MEDICINE

For doctors, nurses, students, and other health professionals
R L Skrine (ed)
Montana Press, Carlisle (1989)
211 pages. Price £10.95

If a woman patient innocently remarked, 'I would not have your job for anything', just as her doctor was about to perform a vaginal examination, then she may be in need of psychosexual counselling. If you accept this concept then *Introduction to psychosexual medicine* will be of service as it is predominantly