

HANDBOOK OF EMERGENCIES IN GENERAL PRACTICE

Norman Lawrence and Joanna Watts
Oxford University Press (1989)
 589 pages. Price £14.95

This pocket-sized book covers a comprehensive range of emergencies that may present to the busy general practitioner. Clearly, not all of the emergencies mentioned are life-threatening but all of the conditions discussed require prompt, decisive management. The text is clearly laid out and in each case contains information about symptoms, signs, differential diagnoses, appropriate treatment, whether or not hospital referral is required and, if so, the degree of urgency. Every other page is blank for the user's own notes. Unusually, this book has been trial tested and was found to provide 'adequate, helpful and accessible information on all the emergencies that presented to busy general practitioners during a four-month period'.

The comprehensive nature of the text combined with its clarity is certainly impressive and the range of emergencies covered is initially quite daunting. However, with the exception of shoplifting, the conditions covered are appropriate and the information provided is readily accessible. This book would be of particular value not only to general practitioners, but also to general practice trainees, medical students and casualty staff. It would be a valuable addition to any training practice library.

ANDREW CARSON

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CHILD PSYCHIATRY AND THE LAW

Dora Black, Stephen Wolkind and Jean Harris Hendricks (eds)
Gaskell, London (1989)
 240 pages. Price £10.00

This book is written mainly for child psychiatrists and is largely concerned with the law relating to child care. However, it could be relevant to general practitioners, especially on the occasions when they are called to give evidence in court whether this is concerned with the care of children or of adults. In particular, there are excellent sections on preparing and writing court reports, attending court and giving evidence. These would be most helpful for a general practitioner who needs to give evidence and who is likely to be unfamiliar with the procedure.

The book has a very good summary of the law relating to children and child care, and a precis of educational needs. The second half of the text provides the reader with nine case studies, which describe a child in the family setting, how the psychiatrist collected information and presented the evidence.

Child psychiatry and the law would be a useful book for any practitioner who is regularly giving evidence in court, such as a police surgeon. It would also be a useful addition to a postgraduate library. However, the field is very specialized and it would be a luxury for the average practice library.

JACKY HAYDEN

General practitioner, Bury, Lancashire

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS



ASSOCIATION FOR GENERAL PRACTICE MATERNITY CARE

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Royal College of Physicians of London

DIPLOMA IN GERIATRIC MEDICINE

The Diploma in Geriatric Medicine is designed to give recognition of competence in the provision of care for the elderly and is particularly suitable for General Practitioner vocational trainees, Clinical Assistants and other doctors working in non-consultant career posts in Departments of Geriatric Medicine, and other doctors with interests in or who have responsibilities for the care of the elderly.

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