



BOOKS

A MANUAL OF ADVERSE DRUG INTERACTIONS*

Fifth Edition. By J P Griffin and P F D'Arcy. Pp. xiii + 649. NLG395/US\$244. Elsevier Science. 1997. ISBN 0-444-82406-5.

With the explosion of new drugs on the world market it has become essential to have reference sources close at hand, or at least within reach of a telephone! No prescriber, dispenser or administrator of medicines can be expected to recall more than just a couple of the possible permutations that the addition of one drug to another may involve.

Most will probably remember the most commonly known of all drug/food interactions – that of the old monoamine-oxidase inhibitors and cheese reaction. Griffin and D'Arcy have simplified that problem for all health professionals in their excellent fifth edition of *A Manual of Adverse Drug Interactions*. The index and contents pages are well laid out and incorporate a commentary on the mechanisms of drug interactions, genetic factors, renal excretory problems and herbal agents to name just a few. Besides laying out the contents by body systems, such as drugs used in cardiovascular disease, endocrine disorders and central nervous systems, etc., there are also chapters on interactions with alcohol, vaccines and medicinal plastics.

All interactions are clearly presented and well referenced, and each chapter starts with a brief, but useful pharmacological overview. This volume deserves to be right next to the prescription pad of every prescriber and on the bench of every pharmacist, as well as in the wards where nurses who administer drugs to patients can check for a potential problem. It certainly is one of our regularly used texts.

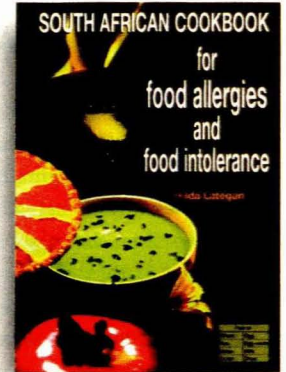
Joe Talmud

SOUTH AFRICAN COOKBOOK FOR FOOD ALLERGIES AND FOOD INTOLERANCE*

By Hilda Lategan. Pp. 145. R59.95. JL van Schaik. 1997. ISBN 0-627-023207.

This is the first South African cookbook of its kind. It is written by a dietitian and is also available in Afrikaans. The growing incidence of food allergies and intolerances has led to the ever-increasing need for a locally suitable recipe book that is easy to follow and indicates which allergen the recipe is free of, namely: wheat, rye, egg, egg white, maize, milk, gluten and/or soya.

The book is divided into a variety of sections, including, for example, soups, light meals and snacks, bread and bread products, baked products, puddings, sweets and sauces. The reader will derive the maximum benefit from this book, if he/she consults with a dietitian in order to ensure that the recipes are used as part of a diet with or without vitamin and mineral supplementation and according to individual needs. The book is of particular value for those who have to follow an elimination diet. These diets are usually limited in variety, which can be increased by the appropriate use of this book, since it offers alternating of permitted foods.



Each recipe indicates the amount yielded and a portion analysis regarding macronutrient content i.e. energy (in kilojoules), carbohydrate, protein and fat. Guidelines are available on how to help adapt recipes of favourite dishes for use, as part of a balanced diet.

Consumers should remember to check any changes in the ingredients of food products used in these recipes with the manufacturer on a regular basis so as to avoid products being used that contain a possible allergen.

The Nutrition Information Centre of the University of Stellenbosch (NICUS) would recommend the use of this book together with a balanced diet.

Megan Pentz

BEST SELLERS

The top three best-selling books from the Multimedia Publishing Book Department in the last month were:

Washington Manual of Medical Therapeutics. 29th Edition. Edited by Charles F. Carey, Hans Lee and Keith F Woeltje. R142.50. Lippincott-Raven: 1998. ISBN 0-7817-1595-4.

Handbook of Paediatrics. Revised fourth edition. H de V Heese. R145. Oxford University Press: 1997. ISBN 0-19-5715-42-X.

Infection Control Manual. Joan Pearse. R195. Jacana Education: 1997. ISBN 1-874955-63-8.

* Book titles marked may be ordered directly from SA Medical Association Multimedia Publishing Book Department, Private Bag X1, Pinelands, 7430, tel. (021) 531-3081, fax (021) 531-4126, e-mail multimedia@samedical.co.za or jstrydom@samedical.co.za

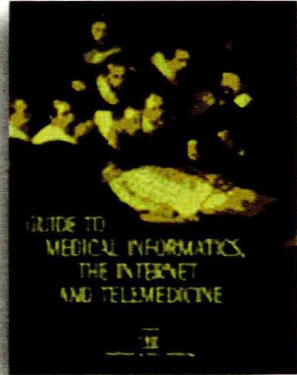


GUIDE TO MEDICAL INFORMATICS, THE INTERNET AND TELEMEDICINE*

By Enrico Coiera. Pp. xxviii + 376. £29.99. Chapman and Hall. 1997. ISBN 0-412-75710-9.

Enrico Coiera not only provides a clear vision of the future of health informatics but also gives the reader a lucid introduction to some fundamental concepts: data, information, knowledge, models and systems.

His vision is informed by a deep understanding of the problems of human-machine 'communication', and the results of ergonomics and ethnography. A crucial goal in analysing health information systems projects is to diagnose those that are impossible; possible but impractical; practical but



not desirable; and practical, desirable and appropriate. Too many vendors and system developers have promised far more than they can hope to deliver, and too many managers demand too much from information systems.

There are few general principles to guide us in differential diagnosis because there are strong forces working against studies and publication of systems that fail. However Coiera does attempt to explain why coding systems and artificial intelligence applications can not live up to the expectations that most people have for them. Coiera applies valuable insights from psychology and communications theory to show how information and communication systems can support clinicians in their work in a variety of settings. He describes with fascinating examples how the Internet and World Wide Web play significant roles in health care and communications. This is definitely the next book anyone should invest in when he or she wants to learn more about health informatics. If you want to see what the book is like go to Enrico Coiera's home page on the World Wide Web: <http://www.coiera.com/>. Here you will find a summary, sample chapters, other publications and his e-mail address for immediate feedback.

Michael Power

BOOKS RECEIVED

The receipt of these books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits. The SAMJ does not publish unsolicited reviews.

Confronting AIDS. Public Priorities in a Global Epidemic.* A World Bank Policy Research Report. Pp. xxv + 353. R145. Oxford University Press. 1997. ISBN 0-19-521117-0.

Alcohol Policy and Public Health in South Africa.* By Charles DH Parry and Anna L Bennetts. Pp. xii + 268. R99.95. Oxford University Press. 1998. ISBN 0-19-571584-5.

Apartheid's Violent Legacy. A Report on Trauma in the Western Cape.* Written and edited by Donald Skinner. Pp. iv + 213. R80. Trauma Centre for Victims of Violence and Torture. 1998. ISBN 0-620-22153-4.

The Diabetes Annual 11.* By SM Marshall, PD Home and RA Rizza. Pp. xii + 267. NLG345/US\$198.50. Elsevier. 1998. ISBN 0-444-82895-8.

Forensic Diatomology and Drowning.* By Michael S Pollanen. Pp. x + 159. Illustrated. NLG295/US\$169.50. Elsevier. 1998. ISBN 0-444-82844-3.

European Resuscitation Council Guidelines for Resuscitation.* Edited by Leo Bossaert. Pp. x + 217. Illustrated. NLG125/US\$72. Elsevier. 1998. ISBN 0-444-82057-1.

Atherosclerosis XI. Excerpta Medica - International Congress Series 1155.* Edited by B Jacotot, D Mathe and J-C Fruchart. Pp. xxii + 1204. NLG 550/US\$316. Elsevier. 1998. ISBN 0-444-82651-3.

Basic Principles of Gynaecological and Obstetrical Surgery.* Edited by Robbert Soeters and Katrien Dehaeck. Pp. x + 118. Illustrated. R75. University of Cape Town Press. 1998. ISBN 1-919713-20-4.

Assessment and Treatment of Cancer Pain. Progress in Pain Research and Management Volume 12.* Edited By Richard Payne, Richard B Patt and C Stratton Hill. Pp. x + 331. Illustrated. US\$71. IASP Press. 1998. ISBN 0-931092-21-3.

Better Sex. Your Guide to Sexual Well-being.* Second Edition. Dr Paul. Pp. x + 155. Illustrated. R59.99. Southern Book Publishers. 1998. ISBN 1-86812-765-6.

ABC of Mental Health.* Edited by Teifion Davies and TKJ Craig. Pp. xii + 82. Illustrated. £19. BMJ. 1998. ISBN 0-7279-1220-8.

ABC of Palliative Care.* Edited by Marie Fallon and Bill O'Neill. Pp. ix + 68. Illustrated. £17. BMJ. 1998. ISBN 0-7279-0793-X.

Our NHS. A Celebration of 50 Years.* Edited by Gordon Macpherson. Pp. xxv + 227. £28. BMJ. 1998. ISBN 0-7279-1279-8.

Uveitis.* By Susan Lightman and Hamish Towler. Fundamentals of Clinical Ophthalmology. Series Editor: Susan Lightman. Pp. ix + 163. Illustrated. £42. BMJ. 1998. ISBN 0-7279-1201-X.

Germ Cell Tumours IV.* The Proceedings of the Fourth Germ Cell Tumour Conference, Leeds, November 1997. Edited by WG Jones, I Appleyard, P Harnden and JK Joffe. Pp. xvi + 432. £60. John Libbey & Co Ltd. 1998. ISBN 0-86196-567-1.

Molecular and Cellular Targets for Anti-Epileptic Drugs.* By G Avanzini, G Regesta, P Tanganelli and M Avoli. Pp. vi + 266. Illustrated. £65. John Libbey & Co Ltd. 1997. ISBN 0-86196554-X.