



BOOKS

AUTOIMMUNE LIVER DISEASES*

Second Edition. Edited by EL Krawitt, RH Wiesner and M Nishioka. Pp. xviii + 656. NLG495/US\$284.50. Elsevier Science BV. 1998. ISBN 0-444-82803-6.

Over the past decade, significant advances in basic and clinical science as applicable to autoimmune hepatitis, primary biliary cirrhosis, primary sclerosing cholangitis, autoimmune aspects of drug- and alcohol-induced liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma have occurred.

This book discusses advances in our knowledge of the pathogenesis of the various abovenamed autoimmune liver diseases, including relevant animal models and puts into perspective the latest therapeutic regimens by reviewing the relevant therapeutic trials which have been performed for the various disease entities. In addition, the histopathology of autoimmune hepatitis, primary biliary cirrhosis and primary sclerosing cholangitis, as well as the overlap syndromes seen in autoimmune liver disease, are well described and illustrated. The comparative histology of these individual entities is concisely laid out in table form. The opening chapter on the fundamental concepts of autoimmunity and autoimmune disease discusses basic immunological recognition and, in more detail, the normal mechanisms of self tolerance, failure of self-tolerance leading to autoimmunity and, briefly, new approaches to treatment aimed at manipulating the immune system.

The two chapters discussing results of liver transplantation and autoimmune liver disease and the recurrence of autoimmune liver disease following liver transplantation are excellent. The factors confounding the diagnosis of recurrent autoimmune disease and its management are well discussed. The other extremely interesting chapter is that on autoimmune features of primary hepatocellular carcinoma where the possible role of autoimmune responses to cellular antigens in HCC and the characterisation of autoantigens which might provide information on cellular pathways associated with malignant transformation and tumour progression are discussed.

The text is extremely easy to read and highly informative. Contributors to this book include experts both in the clinical as well as in the molecular biology and immunology fields. It is essential reading for hepatologists and gastroenterologists and would be highly recommended for any specialist physician with an interest in liver and GIT disease. There is no other book on the market which covers autoimmune disease so comprehensively.

CWN Spearman

PROGRESS IN FORENSIC GENETICS 7*

Edited by Bjornar Olaisen, Bernd Brinkmann and Patrick J Lincoln. Pp. xx + 580. NLG425/US\$244. Elsevier Science BV. 1998. ISBN 0-444-82965-2.

This comprehensive text covers the entire field of molecular forensics. The novice, as well as the established forensic scientist, will benefit tremendously from the detailed methodologies and accurate descriptions of new technology. The detail of protocol parameters that are provided, down to primer sequence, is extraordinary. Although the text is highly technical, the extent to which the authors explain detailed methodologies also makes it a valuable resource for non-scientists involved in forensic case work. Chip technology and other high-throughput strategies are discussed in detail. Methodologies at the core of forensic applications, such as improving results obtained from minimal amounts of DNA template (even from dandruff) are addressed in detail.

A comprehensive section on polymorphism analysis provides information on both novel and established systems that are used in forensics. Mitochondrial genetics is an extremely useful tool in this context, and is covered extensively. The last section provides information on the growing number of forensic databases that are available internationally. None of the authors addresses the legal or ethical aspects relating to forensic databases. Instead, the last section focuses on the power of these resources as well as the standardisation of such tools. The text is highly recommended to scientists embarking on this challenging speciality in molecular biology.

Antonel Olckers

BOOK MANAGER'S CHOICE**Blood Pressure Measurement CD-ROM, by The British Hypertension Society, R650.**

A fully interactive learning aid for anyone needing to perfect this essential skill, including instructions on all forms of blood pressure measurement, information on the pitfalls and problems, learning tutorials, and self-testing sequences of falling mercury and Korotkov sounds.

*Book titles may be ordered directly from SAMA Health and Medical Publishing Book Department, Private Bag X1, Pinelands, 7430, tel. (021) 531-3081, fax (021) 531-4126, e-mail publishing@samedical.org or jstrydom@samedical.org. Visit our website at www.samedical.org



SYMPTOM RELIEF IN TERMINAL ILLNESS*

WHO. Pp vi + 109. SwFr17.50. WHO. 1998. ISBN 92-4-154507-0.

This small book published by the World Health Organisation in 1998 is an extremely useful handbook for those involved in caring for terminally ill people. In 1984 the WHO achieved the first international consensus on the use of drugs for cancer pain relief, developing the concept of the three-step analgesic ladder. This book has evolved from that work with the recognition that there are many other symptoms suffered by terminally ill patients about which health workers need guidance with respect to management.

The book is user-friendly with each of the fourteen major symptoms encountered presented in chapter form. Initially the book looks at general principles of management, including evaluation, organisation, communication and the principles of treatment, basing itself on the maxim, 'Keep it simple', which is vital, both from the point of view of the patient and those looking after him, and from the point of view of the attending physician.

Michael J Wetzler

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND HEALTH. VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS AND HEALTH ADVICE*

(1999 revised edition). WHO. Pp. 108. SwFr17/US\$15.30. WHO. 1999. ISBN 92-4-158024-0.

Travel clinics and travel advisory services have sprung up like mushrooms all over the country to cater for the rapidly growing needs of international travellers for vaccination and advice on hygiene and prevention of enteric infections, especially in tropical and developing countries. This booklet, commissioned by the World Health Organisation, contains most of what is necessary to advise travellers going to distant lands, provided that the background information of the booklet is supplemented by 'live' information on outbreak situations (e.g. the ProMED website, www.healthnet.org). Broadly, the contents are systematically divided into the vaccination needs for different diseases affecting international travel (white pages), specific country needs for vaccination certificates and advice on malaria (yellow pages), potential health hazards to travellers in different parts of the world (blue pages), and lastly, risks to health associated with travel and how to avoid them (white pages). The book is also well indexed by country and by subject. One deviation from local advice which is interesting to note is the recommendation for mefloquine alone for malaria prophylaxis for South Africa. However, a

combination of chloroquine and proguanil is recommended as an alternative and is probably still more widely used locally than mefloquine. This booklet is indispensable to any practitioner dispensing travel advice.

A Jamieson

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.

ABC of Resuscitation.* Fourth edition. Edited by MC Colquhoun, AJ Handley and TR Evans. Pp. xi + 89. Illustrated. £14.95. 1999. BMJ. ISBN 0-7279-1190-2.

Pre-hospital Paediatric Life Support.* Advanced Life Support Group. Pp. x + 203. Illustrated. £22. 1999. BMJ. ISBN 0-7279-1419-7.

Sports Medicine Handbook.* Edited by Roger Hackney and Angus Wallace. Pp. x + 495. Illustrated. £75. 1999. BMJ. ISBN 0-7279-1031-0.

Diabetes. Emergency and Hospital Management.* By Simon R Page and George M Hall. Pp. vii + 246. £25. 1999. BMJ. ISBN 0-7279-1229-1.

Withholding and Withdrawing Life-prolonging Medical Treatment. Guidance for Decision Making.* British Medical Association. Pp. ix + 84. £9.95. 1999. BMJ. ISBN 0-7279-1456-1.

The Management of Eating Disorders and Obesity.* Edited by David J Goldstein. Pp. xv + 367. US\$99.50. 1999. The Humana Press. ISBN 0-89603-407-0.

Key Questions in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.* Second Edition. By A Pickersgill, A Meskhi and S Paul. Pp. xii + 168. £15.95. 1999. Plymbridge. ISBN 1-85996-003-0.

Key Topics in Thoracic Surgery.* By AG Casson and MR Johnston. Pp. x + 282. £22.95. 1999. Plymbridge. ISBN 1-85996-155-X.

Key Topics in Respiratory Medicine.* By WJM Kinnear, IDA Johnston and IP Hall. Pp. x + 169. £18.95. 1999. Plymbridge. ISBN 1-85996-271-8.

Diarrhoea and Constipation in Geriatric Practice.* Edited by Ranjit N Ratnaike. Pp. xiii + 236. Illustrated. £32.50. 1999. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-65388-6.

Safe Management of Wastes from Health-Care Activities.* Edited by A Pruss, E Giroult and P Rushbrook. Pp. xiv + 230. SwFr72/US\$64.80. 1999. WHO. ISBN 92-4-154525-9.

Evaluation of Certain Veterinary Drug Residues in Food.* Fiftieth report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. Technical Report Series No. 888. Pp. vii + 95. SwFr20/US\$18. 1999. WHO. ISBN 92-4-120888-0.