

Books

What to do in a Paediatric Emergency*

Ian Higginson, David Montgomery and Phil Munro. Pp 48. £14.95. London: BMJ Publishing Group. 1996. ISBN 0-7279-1032-9.

The aim of this useful guide is to present the reader with a user-friendly collection of protocols, procedures, and drug doses to be used in a paediatric emergency. It is based on the recommendations of the UK Advanced Life Support Group.

The book covers a large number of paediatric emergencies including trauma, shock, asthma, croup, coma and status epilepticus among others. The approaches to these problems are mostly presented in easily read flow charts that give clear recommendations as to the appropriate investigations to be performed and treatments to be given. This is particularly useful for doctors who do not handle paediatric emergencies on a regular basis. Guidelines for performing commonly required emergency procedures such as intra-osseous infusions, chest drain insertion and needle cricothyroidotomy are included.

This condensed guide would have been even more useful if it included guidelines for the management of other common paediatric emergencies such as a hypertensive crisis and electrolyte disorders. Uncommon paediatric emergencies, on the other hand, such as cardiac arrhythmias, receive detailed attention. It is a pity common neonatal emergencies are not included as this would have made the guide more applicable to health care workers in primary and secondary hospitals.

I find this guide very useful and practical and would recommend that it be widely available wherever children are resuscitated. I think doctors who do not regularly deal with paediatric emergencies will find it particularly useful. The guide would also be more user-friendly if the problems were arranged alphabetically and the format smaller to allow the guide to be carried in a pocket.

R Gie

Best sellers

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



Stedman's Concise Medical and Allied Health Dictionary (third edition) edited by John H Dirckx. R160. Williams and Wilkins, 1995. ISBN 0-683-07922-0.

ABC of Emergency Radiology edited by D A Nicholson and P A Driscoll. R209. BMJ, 1997. ISBN 0-7279-0832-4.

A Sceptic's Medical Dictionary by Michael O'Donnell. R187. BMJ, 1997. ISBN 0-7279-1204-6.

* Book titles marked may be ordered directly from MASA Multimedia, Book Department, Private Bag X1, Pinelands, 7430, tel. (021) 531-3081, fax (021) 531-4126, e-mail masact@iafrica.com

The New Dictionary of Medical Ethics*

Edited by Kenneth M Boyd, Roger Higgs, Anthony J Pinching. Pp. xii + 285. £11. London: BMJ. 1997. ISBN 0-7279-1001-9.

In recent decades scholarship and debates on ethical issues in medicine have received a higher profile than ever before. This reflects a resurgence of interest in ethics generally, and in professional ethics specifically. The burgeoning of academic work and prolific writings in these fields is increasingly impinging on the everyday practice of medicine. All practitioners need to acquire some understanding and familiarity with the many concepts, terms and approaches which have become common currency in ethical discourse.

While this dictionary is not the starting point for anyone wishing to begin studying medical ethics, and it is certainly not a single source of reference, it does provide helpful and very readable entries and short essays, and some useful references, on a wide range of topics. These include abortion, AIDS, autonomy, clinical trials, conflicts of interest, consent, culture, the doctor/patient relationship, guardianship, health care systems, euthanasia, fairness, feminism, law, life-support systems, philosophy, politics, placebos, research, spirituality, surrogacy and almost 1 000 other concepts and terms. Included among the many contributors are doctors, lawyers, philosophers, theologians, economists, and anthropologists.

In addition to being a useful reference source for those interested in medical ethics, it also contributes some guidance towards structured thinking for those wishing to pursue a systematic course of study in medical ethics. It is good value for money.

S R Benatar

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.

Responsible Teenage Sexuality.* Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa. Pp. xvii + 311. Illustrated. R69.95. Pretoria: JL van Schaik Publishers. 1998. ISBN 0-627-02332-0.

A Manual of Adverse Drug Interactions.* Fifth Edition. By J P Griffin and P F D'Arcy. Pp. xiii + 649. NLG395/US\$244. Amsterdam: Elsevier Science. 1997. ISBN 0-444-82406-5.

Cancer in the Elderly. A Nursing and Medical Perspective.* European School of Oncology Scientific Updates Volume 2, in association with the European Oncology Nursing Society. Edited by Kathy Redmond and Matti S Aapro. Series Editors U Veronesi and M S Aapro. Pp. xii + 98. NLG160/US\$95. Amsterdam: Elsevier Science. 1997. ISBN 0-444-828583.

International Travel and Health. Vaccination Requirements and Health Advice. Situation as on 1 January 1998.* WHO. Pp. 108. SwFr17/US\$15.30. Geneva: WHO. 1998. ISBN 92-4-158023-2.

Heterosexual HIV/AIDS as a Global Problem; Towards 2000. An Updated Guide For All Medical Practitioners and Healthcare Workers.* By Sydney J Lachman. Pp. viii + 318. R130. Johannesburg: JB Israelsohn, Pharmaceutical Society of SA (Southern Gauteng branch). 1997. ISBN 0-620-21977-7.