

I met Bobbie and his family when they arrived in Welkom, and as his anaesthetist, we spent many hours in the operating theatre together. We became close and enjoyed a very meaningful friendship of 25 years in Welkom, until we both retired at the end of 1990, and which we maintained after my wife and I left Welkom to settle in Cape Town.

Bobbie accepted his illness, which had started in his teens, with courage, wisdom, patience and a great sense of humour. Throughout, he was most accommodating, especially as his illness progressed and he could do less and less for himself, eventually requiring continuous oxygen.

He retained his dignity and neatness to the end and was lovingly cared for throughout his illness by his devoted wife Charlotta. They have lost a very special husband, father and grandfather and we have lost a very special friend.

We will remember Bobbie as we knew him.

## Books

### ***Heterosexual HIV/AIDS as a Global Problem***

5th Edition. By Sydney J. Lachman. Pp. 716. Braamfontein: TPS Drug Info Centre. 1995. ISBN 0-620-19144-9.

The fifth edition of this book, *A guide for medical practitioners and health care workers*, is a monumental work. It must rank among the top reference books on HIV/AIDS. The preface alone runs to 31 pages. In the following 15 chapters the author deals *inter alia* with: the epidemiology of HIV infection; statistics; pathogenesis; diagnosis; the clinical spectrum; management; population subgroups at risk; HIV/AIDS in infants, children and adolescents; the profound ethical and social problems associated with the disease and the very serious economic considerations, especially for developing countries. In the last chapter, 'The impact of HIV disease on medical practice', the case histories of 27 personal patients are discussed in detail. They clearly illustrate the great variety of clinical presentations of this dreaded condition. There are 3 898 references.

The author is particularly concerned with 'The pathetic African scenario', quoting *Time Magazine's* rather pessimistic view of Africa as the 'Third World of the Third World'. He rightly stresses the urgent need to develop a comprehensive system of home-based care. He urges greater involvement of family doctors. Indeed, 'Training of all primary care staff, including ancillary staff, in HIV-related matters is fundamental and is the purpose of the present book.'

The style of this work is idiosyncratic and sometimes confusing and the vast array of data does not always make for easy reading. 'Foetus' should be spelt 'Fetus' and there are many repetitions. Nevertheless, this book is a very important addition to the HIV/AIDS literature and should be in every library dealing with the disease.

**Herman A. van Coeverden de Groot**

### ***Diagnostic Hematology***

By Bernadette F. Rodak. Pp. xvi + 702. Illustrated. £29.95. Philadelphia: WB Saunders Company. 1995. ISBN 0-7216-4727-8.

This well presented book fills the gap between haematology technology laboratory manuals and standard haematology textbooks, which cover clinical issues in far greater detail. Despite the title *Diagnostic Haematology*, it remains a purely laboratory-based approach to the diagnostic process in the haematology patient, and in so doing it will appeal predominantly to medical technologists and medical laboratory scientists specialising in laboratory haematology. By providing some clinical insights, especially with regard to therapy of blood disorders, it will expand the horizons of laboratory-based personnel, but the paucity of information on clinical diagnostic features limits its usefulness to medical students and medical graduates.

The layout of the book is logical and the problem-solving exercises at the end of each chapter will help the student to assess his/her own understanding of the material presented. The information provided is generally accurate and reasonably up-to-date, although more detail on the molecular basis of blood diseases, and the exploitation of molecular tests in the diagnostic process would have been welcome additions, especially in view of the laboratory perspective adopted by the authors.

In summary, this book is a useful addition to the available literature on the subject of Haematology. The role it fulfills will be very much dependent on local variations in practice of the discipline. For South African readers, the book will appeal to Medical Laboratory Technologists predominantly, where it will be a welcome supplement to their existing curriculum and will hopefully help to widen their perspective in their chosen discipline.

**B. Mendelow**

### ***Continuous Spikes and Waves during Slow Sleep. Electrical Status Epilepticus during Slow Sleep***

Acquired epileptic aphasia and related conditions. Mariani Foundation Paediatric Neurology: 3. Edited by A. Beaumanoir, M. Bureau, T. Deonna, L. Mira and C. A. Tassinari. Pp. xi + 255. Illustrated. £32/US\$59. London: John Libbey & Co Ltd. 1995. ISBN 086196-488-8.

This book stands at the confluence of three disciplines namely; paediatrics, neurology, and sleep medicine. While the conditions discussed are not sleep disorders, it has been the advent and growth of polysomnography that has allowed the definition and detailing of these disorders. With the ever improving access to sleep monitoring technology in South Africa, knowledge of these syndromes becomes more important, especially to the paediatrician interested in neurology, and to the neurologist interested in paediatrics.

From the starting point of the Landau-Kleffner syndrome, probably the best known of this group of conditions, all the variants are explored to the extent of current knowledge and by leading figures in the field. Multi-author books frequently

suffer from the problem of variable quality of writing, and this is no exception. Generally however, the quality of writing is good and the factual content high. The reader is brought up-to-date with the state-of-the-art as regards treatment, while all of the many remaining questions are highlighted.

This is not a book for the generalist. It is an important addition to the library of a paediatrician, neurologist, or anyone else dealing with developmental neurology. However, if the reader finds him or herself without an adequate sleep monitoring laboratory, frustration will be inevitable as the condition will be undiagnosable. Certainly it will provoke reconsideration of a number of cases which have defied diagnosis.

**K. D. Rosman**

## Prescribing in Pregnancy

Second Edition. Edited by Peter Rubin. Pp. vii + 155. Illustrated. £17. London: BMJ. 1995. ISBN 0-7179-0949-5.

This is an excellent little book. It has a straightforward and practical approach to the subject.

After the very important first two chapters on general principles and identifying abnormalities, the next ten chapters are selected so that each covers therapeutic approaches to medical problems likely to be encountered in pregnancy. The descriptions of the therapeutic options and the theory behind the use of the drugs range from those required in common minor ailments e.g. analgesics, treatment of nausea and vomiting and constipation, through the difficulties involved in managing rheumatic diseases to diabetes and other less common endocrine diseases. I thoroughly enjoyed the chapter on the treatment of cardiovascular disease with particular reference to hypertension developing in pregnancy. I was left in no doubt as to the appropriateness of methyl dopa and the unsuitability of the ACE inhibitors.

We are also reminded that the drug treatment of asthma in pregnancy is the same as in a non-pregnant state (poorly controlled asthma is apparently of greater risk to the foetus than the drugs that are used in its treatment).

I have always appreciated reading tables in an effort to remember, as well as for quick reference when I have forgotten important detail. Therefore I was more than pleasantly surprised to see the well set out table on antimicrobial agents with their possible adverse effects. The adverse effects were very conveniently divided into those likely to occur in the first as well as in the second and third trimesters.

Each chapter ends with a few key points from the preceding discussion. This reader-friendly addition is very useful as a reminder and for quick revision.

Professor Rubin in his chapter on general principles says 'The aim of this book is to provide the information on which a clinical decision can be made'. I believe that he has achieved his goal. The book will be particularly valuable to General Practitioners, although I think that all those involved in the management of pregnancy should read it.

**C. R. Swanepoel**

## Nuclear Medicine. Science and Safety

By A. C. Perkins. Pp. x + 182. Illustrated. £24/US\$44. London: John Libbey & Co Ltd. 1995. ISBN 0-86196-470-5.

This concise book is timely and complements the more complete nuclear medicine texts because of its emphasis on the relative safety of nuclear medicine procedures. It also includes radiation dosimetry and protection precautions needed both in the department and in the rest of the hospital.

The book begins with a short history of ionising radiation, and explains the physics of radiation effects. A brief up-to-date overview of clinical nuclear medicine procedures is given, which serves as an excellent introduction for staff rotating through the department.

## 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.

**Laboratory Techniques in Rabies.** Fourth edition. Edited by F-X. Meslin, M. M. Kaplan and H. Koprowski. Pp. xvii + 476. Illustrated. Sw.fr.115/US\$103.50. Geneva: WHO. 1996. ISBN 92-4-154479-1.

**Cancer Pain Relief. With a Guide to Opioid Availability.** Second edition. WHO. Pp. vi + 63. Sw.fr.17/US\$15.30. Geneva: WHO. 1996. ISBN 92-4-154482-1.

**Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality.** Volume 2: Health Criteria and Other Supporting Information. Second edition. WHO. Pp. xvi + 973. Sw.fr.260/US\$234. Geneva: WHO. 1996. ISBN 92-4-154480-5.

**A Book for Midwives.** By Susan Klein. Pp. 520. Illustrated. £12.25. Basingstoke: MacMillan. 1996. ISBN 0-333-66059-5.

**Lecture Notes on Epidemiology and Public Health Medicine.** Fourth edition. By Richard Framer, David Miller and Ross Lawrenson. Pp. viii + 288. Illustrated. £13.95. Oxford: Blackwell Science. 1996. ISBN 0-86542-611-2.

**Vitamin A Deficiency and its Consequences. A Field Guide to Detection and Control.** Third edition. By Alfred Sommer. Pp. vii + 69. Illustrated. Sw.fr.17. Geneva: WHO. 1995. ISBN 92-4-154478-3.

**Experiences with Primary Health Care in Zambia. Public Health in Action 2.** Edited by Joseph M. Kasonde and John D. Martin. Pp. vii + 118. Sw.fr.26. Geneva: WHO. 1994. ISBN 92-4-156169-6.

**Application of the International Classification of Diseases to Dentistry and Stomatology.** Third edition. WHO. Pp. v + 238. Sw.fr.50. Geneva: WHO. 1995. ISBN 92-4-154467-8.

**Women's Waterworks. Curing Incontinence.** By Pauline E. Chiarelli. Pp. 63. Illustrated. R29.50. Wynberg: Capability Products.

**Inorganic Lead.** Environmental Health Criteria No. 165. Pp. 300. Sw.fr.43. Geneva: WHO. 1995. ISBN 92-4-157165-9.

**Medical Imaging — The Assessment of Image Quality.** ICRU Report No. 54. Pp. x + 88. Illustrated. US\$60. Bethesda: ICRU Publications. 1996. ISBN 0-913394-53-X.

**Immunization in Practice. A Guide for Health Workers who give Vaccines.** WHO. Pp. 360. Illustrated. £6.75. Basingstoke: MacMillan Education Ltd. 1996. ISBN 0-333-63095-5.

**Evaluating Tobacco Control Activities. Experiences and Guiding Principles.** By C. Chollat-Traquet. Pp. xii + 220. Sw.fr.60/US\$54. Geneva: WHO. 1996. ISBN 92-4-154490-2.

**Advice for House Officers.** By Colin Johnson and John Iredale. Pp. iv + 107. £8.50. Beaconsfield: Beaconsfield Publishers Ltd. 1996. ISBN 0-906584-43-4.

The chapter on radiation dosimetry includes the latest concepts derived from publication 60 of the International Commission on Radiological Protection, together with a comparison of other risks of everyday life.

The section on information for staff and patients is well handled and will help staff explain to patients about their investigations. It explains the importance of local rules and discusses such issues as the problems of pregnant or potentially pregnant staff, the difficulties which arise in using nuclear medicine investigations outside the department, for example in operating theatres, as well as a useful summary of adverse reactions to radiopharmaceuticals.

The appendices include data on most of the radionuclides of interest to nuclear medicine. Also included are some examples of information leaflets for patients and staff.

This book is generally well produced and is interesting to read. It also serves as a reference book which will often be consulted by nuclear medicine and other staff. Medical, radiography, technical and nursing staff involved in nuclear medicine will find that this introductory text, at a reasonable price, contains a great deal of information not readily available elsewhere.

***J. F. Klopper***