
BOOKS / BOEKE

New *BMJ* ABC series

ABC of Spinal Cord Injury. 2nd ed. By D. Grundy and A Swain. Pp. 61. Illustrated. £11 London: BMJ 1993.

ABC of Diabetes. 3rd ed. By Peter J. Watkins Pp. 56. Illustrated. London: BMJ. 1993. Obtainable from Libriger Book Distributors, Bloemfontein.

ABC of Transfusion. 2nd ed. Ed by Marcela A. Contreras. Pp. 66. £14,50. London: BMJ. 1993.

ABC of Vascular Diseases. Ed by John H. N. Wolfe. Pp. 79. London: BMJ. 1993.

The *BMJ* has done some innovative things in its time, but surely one of the smartest was to start the ABC series. Each of the articles is a little masterpiece of expertise, conciseness and good design and layout. I believe that it would be quite

possible to use them as basic clinical textbooks, writing as they do about eminently practical matters.

My own favourite in this collection of four was the *ABC of Spinal Cord Injury*, which, I have no hesitation suggesting, is one of the most important areas of traumatology. You only have to see once, as I have, an injury that was perfectly salvageable being turned into one that caused almost complete paralysis, purely through mishandling, to be aware of the vital importance of knowing what you are up to in this area.

I would also suggest that the *ABC of Transfusion* should be required reading for every new health officer or intern, and that every diabetes clinic should have a dog-eared copy of this ABC hanging up on the wall. The *ABC of Vascular Diseases* is also an excellent publication. So, as always, I have no hesitation in recommending every single one of these excellent booklets.

N. C. LEE

BOOKS / BOEKE

Female sterilisation

Female Sterilization: A Guide to Provision of Services. Pp. x + 197. Illustrated. Sfr. 41. Geneva: WHO. 1992.

This book is one of many WHO publications on family planning techniques. It is directed at service providers responsible for establishing and administering programmes for female sterilisation in family planning and health programmes. It aims to extend its accessibility, increase awareness of it as a contraceptive option, and to eliminate misconceptions and increase acceptance.

Information is given on advantages, disadvantages, timing of the procedure and recommended techniques, immediate and long-term complications, and the importance of counselling. There is also information on financial management and organising and managing services.

Clear tables describe and compare postpartum and interval timing, types of procedure, and local and general anaesthesia. In addition, there are instruction sheets for clients, and lists of equipment required, and examples of medical records. Guidelines are given to ensure safety, acceptability and ease of access by selecting appropriate service-delivery channels and training personnel in existing facilities.

The book will be of great value to personnel involved in the delivery of family planning services.

K. E. SAPIRE

Cervical cancer

Cervical Cancer Screening Programmes: Managerial Guidelines. By A. B. Miller. Pp. viii + 50. SFr. 12. Geneva: WHO. 1992.

This is another in the admirable series published by the World Health Organisation that addresses problems of particular importance in primary health care.

The book is more than just a suggested programme for cervical cancer screening. It sets out in some detail the natural history of cervical cancer and pre-cancerous conditions and delineates clearly the epidemiology of this worldwide epidemic and in particular the women at risk who need cervical cancer screening. The chapter on cervical screening in primary health care is of particular importance to this country, and methods of recalling patients with abnormalities are stressed.

In addition, there is a most interesting concept applied in India recently, termed down-staging for cervical cancer. The definition is 'the detection of the disease in an earlier stage when still curable, by nurses and other non-medical health workers using a simple speculum for visual inspection of the cervix'. This concept could well be applied in South Africa.

This is a very important publication for those interested in preventing cervical cancer, the commonest cancer in women in South Africa, and should in particular be studied by the relevant officials in the Department of National Health.

BASIL BLOCH

Alcohol in southern Africa

Liquor and Labor in Southern Africa. Ed by Jonathan Crush and Charles Ambler. Pp. 432. R99. Pietermaritzburg: University of Natal Press. 1992.

Alcohol has played an important role in the social and labour history of southern Africa. The editors have capitalised upon the lack of systematic, scholarly attention given to this topic and have broken new ground by locating their study of alcohol production, use, and control in the framework of southern African historiography.

The 14 essays, written by local and international scholars, are centred on different geographical regions in

different periods. The main thread running through the essays is the ambivalence shown by the State and capital towards alcohol consumption and production by blacks, and the complex array of responses by the black population towards regulations imposed upon them. These essays show how the dominant (white) class, while often viewing alcohol as a dangerous source of social deterioration, has sought to control production and distribution to obtain revenue and profit and to facilitate social engineering and control. With regard to the black population, the essays demonstrate the role played by the preparation and consumption of alcoholic drinks in facilitating a continuity in social and ritual life between the countryside and the town; in providing a means of economic survival; in providing an outlet for frustration; and in fostering resistance to alcohol-related legislation and apartheid oppression. The essays also indicate that there have been subgroups in the black population that have seen alcohol as a source of decay and a barrier to progress.

The introductory chapter provides an excellent overview of the book. The essays are well written and include a wealth of material from official and unofficial sources. Many of the chapters include maps, tables, and quotations from archival material. The book also provides a valuable contribution to the social and cultural histories of black communities in southern Africa.

A concluding chapter in which attention is given to likely future developments is lacking. Using the insights gained from the historiographical analysis, this could address questions such as, 'How is a democratic government in South Africa (and the liquor industry) likely to respond to the current lack of control over the distribution of alcohol?' While brief mention is given to the 1976 political demonstrations in Soweto, not enough attention is given to more recent events that reflect the struggle over the control of alcohol production and consumption. Nor is enough attention given to the role played by the alcohol industry as a provider of labour.

Despite these shortcomings, the book can be recommended to policy-makers; to sociologists, anthropologists and political scientists; to organised labour; and to the general public. Professionals involved in the treatment of persons experiencing alcohol problems, particularly those interested in gaining a greater appreciation of the historical and cultural factors that might be impacting upon their patients, are also recommended to read this book. The book contains a wealth of details, so readers may choose to read the introductory chapter and one or more chapters of particular interest.

C. D. H. PARRY

Primary care in AIDS

Primary AIDS Care. By Clive Evian. Pp. 267. Illustrated. R59,95. Johannesburg: Jacana. 1993.

There is no doubt that, although in some cases they seem reluctant to shoulder the burden, AIDS care will become increasingly the sphere of the family practitioner and the primary health care worker. This is a matter of simple basic necessity since our hospitals are going to be unable to cope with the expected increased number of cases.

A reason for the reluctance is that many doctors have received little guidance in the care of AIDS patients, and what advice they have received has often been confusing and conflicting. Dr Clive Evian is a doctor who has taken a particular interest in AIDS, and has now compiled this excellent manual of care. It represents current thinking on the management of AIDS on primary care level, and is a mine of information. Not only does it cover the clinical management, but it also brings into focus the highly important and vital social aspects of the disease.

The book is well written, well laid out and well illustrated. It fulfils a very definite need, and is highly recommended.

N. C. LEE

BOOKS / BOEKE

Kliniese etiek

Kliniese Etiek: 'n Christelike Benadering. 2de uitg. Deur Uys en Smit. Pp. 166. Kenwyn: Juta. 1992.

Ek het die voorreg gehad om 3 jaar gelede die eerste uitgawe van hierdie publikasie te resenseer en kan hierdie tweede, en aansienlik bygewerkte uitgawe baie sterk by voorgraadse mediese studente aanbeveel. Sowat 40 nuwe en tersaaklike verwysings is bygevoeg.

Soos destyds is die titel steeds ietwat misleidend, want die belangrikste bydrae lê juis in die stewige teoreties-filosofiese bydrae wat dit verskaf gesien vanuit die Christelike antropologie. Die klinikus is meesal nie goed onderlê in hierdie area nie, en die besige mediese student het nóg die tyd nóg die motivering om uit geesteswetenskaplike bronne so 'n voortreflik gebalanseerde agtergrond te bekom.

Die uitgewer het egter in hierdie uitgawe die outeurs in die steek gelaat met die proeflees: die twee slothoofstukke is uit die inhoudsopgaaf weggelaat. 'n Mens hoop dat die volgende uitgawe wel sal kennis neem van Suid-Afrikaanse bronne, bv. die MNR se etiese riglyne vir proefdiernavorsing en die nie-teologiese werk oor kliniese etiek. Hierdie opmerking doen egter geen afbreuk aan die waardevolle teoreties-filosofiese bydrae wat hierdie boekie op voortreflike wyse lewer nie, juis nou dat die MVSA ook aktiewe belangstelling in etiese dilemmas toon.

H. P. WASSERMANN

Ovarian carcinoma

Cancer of the Ovary. Ed by Maurice Markman and William J. Hoskins. Pp. xv + 442. Illustrated. \$156,50. New York: Raven Press. 1992.

This is undoubtedly the definitive textbook on ovarian cancer. The authors have gathered a distinguished panel of contributors, the contents are comprehensive, extending from embryology through histopathology and immunology to a detailed discussion of the clinical features and management of metastatic tumours, to the ovary and epithelial ovarian tumours of low malignant potential.

References are up to date and include the most recent studies on Taxol and all other available techniques for treatment of this not uncommon and frequently fatal disease. Controversial aspects, and there are many in the management of this disease, are discussed and opposing viewpoints considered. Of particular interest are the chapters on intraperitoneal chemotherapy and immunotherapy, which contain much new information. Non-biological experimental agents are also considered.

In summary, this is an excellent reference manual for a gynaecological oncology unit and should be available in that setting. It should also be a mandatory purchase for medical school and hospital libraries where this disease is treated, for it will frequently be referred to.

BASIL BLOCH

Complications of cirrhosis

Baillière's Clinical Gastroenterology. International Practice and Research: Portal Hypertension. Ed by R. Shields. Pp. 208. Illustrated. £27,50. Kent: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. 1992.

The complications of cirrhosis that lead to morbidity and mortality are usually related to the degree of portal hypertension with gastro-intestinal bleeding, hepatorenal syndrome and encephalopathy. The quality of life of cirrhotic patients is severely compromised by these complications and by the problems associated with treatment (in particular the control of ascites). Although liver transplantation corrects the fundamental problem of portal hypertension, it remains an option for the minority of patients with end-

stage liver failure. This book is therefore important in that it addresses, in detail, recent advances and concepts underlying the pathophysiology of portal hypertension, bleeding oesophageal varices, hepatic encephalopathy and ascites.

The book has a strong European flavour, the only chapter arising from the USA is that detailing liver transplantation and the treatment of active bleeding and oesophageal varices by T. E. Starzl. The emphasis of the book is really on the understanding of the abnormal haemodynamics in cirrhosis and the mechanisms underlying ascites and encephalopathy. The advances in the therapy of these complications is adequately addressed.

In my opinion the standards and scope of the many updated general hepatology textbooks are so high and wide as to reduce the potential readership of this book. The specialised Ballière's range of textbooks is fundamentally of interest to a limited subset of medical practitioners and physiologists. The reviewed book appears primarily directed at senior medical or surgical registrars training in gastroenterology or to gastroenterologists/hepatologists in academic or private practice. In this context, the up-to-date reviews will be of some value.

S. C. ROBSON

Treating diarrhoea

Readings on Diarrhoea. Pp. vi + 147. Illustrated. Sfr. 20. Geneva: WHO. 1992.

The World Health Organisation's Control of the Diarrhoeal Diseases Programme was implemented in May 1991 in the Orange Free State. This book is an excellent student manual, and will certainly be used during the in-service training sessions of nurses to maintain an emphasis on the management of diarrhoea.

Several useful and important features in the book will improve the nursing staff's learning ability. These are: (i) the questions at the end of each chapter; (ii) the practical advice on setting up drips and nasogastric tubes; (iii) an example of a diarrhoeal care form; (iv) an example of what a pamphlet should contain when given to a mother as a guide to rehydration of her child; (v) and the difficulties to be anticipated and how they may be overcome.

I suggest that a future edition could include other ways to effectively assess whether children are suffering from acute malnutrition.

R. D. CHAPMAN

Manual of arthroscopy

Techniques in Therapeutic Arthroscopy. Ed by J. Serge Parisien. Pp. 385. Illustrated. \$157,50. New York: Raven Press. 1993.

This large picture book is the journeyman's manual of arthroscopy. It is a book of illustrations; the section on the knee (half the text) has about 80 X-rays, magnetic resonance images and photographs; and 200 explanatory diagrams. But more than 300 transarthroscopic photographs, 65 mm square create the excellence of the book.

The remainder of the book has chapters on arthroscopy of the shoulder, ankle, elbow, hip, wrist, carpal tunnel and temporomandibular joints.

The editor is the Chief of Arthroscopic Surgery Services, Hospital for Joint Diseases, New York University Medical School. All 22 contributors are American, representing a continent-wide spread of well-known arthroscopists.

Many expositions on arthroscopy are now reaching the market, but this is the best demonstration of arthroscopic anatomy and pathology I have encountered.

With more than usual encouragement I recommend orthopaedic teaching units to obtain the volume.

J. P. DRIVER-JOWITT

BOOKS / BOEKE

Chemicals and birth defects

Chemically Induced Birth Defects. 2nd ed. By James L. Schardein. Pp. xiv + 902. \$250. New York: Marcel Dekker 1993.

This book should, ideally, find a place on the shelves of pharmacists, toxicologists, obstetricians and the many other health care workers who are bombarded by patients, colleagues or even their own consciences when it comes to prescribing drugs during pregnancy. Unfortunately, the price will almost certainly limit the book's exposure.

As stated by the author, the basic layout is simple and straightforward. All agents used therapeutically as medicinals or drugs are discussed under the respective area of therapeutic use (anti-hypertensives, etc.) In addition, there are chapters covering agents that have strictly chemical or industrial uses. The chapters on medicinals and drugs range from those prescribed by professionals to the multitude of agents that are self-prescribed (e.g. aspirin, social drugs) or taken inadvertently (e.g. food additives). The section on chemicals is not only comprehensive but is also laid out in a manner that informs and educates the reader. Experiences of exposure to toxins in Italy, India, America and Vietnam are recorded and presented in such a way that the reader forgets that this is, after all, a textbook. Where animal data are used, the author has made an effort to place effects in animals in perspective to human exposures.

For those wanting a book covering everything current from acetaminophen to zeolites, this is a book worth having. It should remain as a reliable reference source for several years, and is consequently well worth its relatively high price tag.

A. D. ROTHBERG

Virology

Progress in Medical Virology. Vol. 40. Ed by J. L. Melnick. Pp. viii + 221. Illustrated. Sfr. 265. Basel: S. Karger. 1993.

The series *Progress in Medical Virology* follows a formula of producing excellent reviews of subjects of topical interest in human viral diseases. Volume 40 is no exception. Within the subject of medical virology a wide spectrum of issues is covered. These range from the highly specialised, such as the use of adenovirus as a tool for transporting genetic material into cells, to the role of the diagnostic laboratory in clinical medicine and public health. The latter contribution, from Desselberger and Flewett from the well known Regional Viral Laboratory of East Birmingham, provides a clear explanation of the changing and increasing role of virology in health care. New methods, new viruses, new patients (such as severely immunosuppressed patients) and the widespread advent and use of a broad range of commercial kits, has transformed the character of laboratory diagnostic virology.

An example of how progress in diagnostic virology has advanced our understanding of the course of a viral disease and assisted in its management, is that of the old headache of the laboratory diagnosis of cytomegalovirus infection and disease. The article by Landini shows newer serological and viral detection techniques can be used to answer the important clinical question of whether a patient has previously been infected with the virus or whether he is undergoing active infection, whether the infection is primary or secondary or reactivation, and whether he is protected from severe disease. Technologies imported from the research

laboratory into the routine diagnostic laboratory are being put increasingly to use, for example, to answer questions relating to the epidemiology of virus infections. Molecular epidemiology is a burgeoning discipline now being extended to many viruses, including, most recently, rabies. Smith and Seidel have demonstrated the relatedness between rabies isolates from different parts of the world, using a computer programme to assemble a dendrogram, or 'family tree' of rabies. In this way it is hoped to obtain a more rational understanding of the origin and spread of outbreaks of infection. Molecular techniques have, of course, played an important role in HIV diagnosis and research. The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is perhaps foremost among these techniques and the review by Lewis and Gibbs of the development and usefulness of PCR and *in situ* hybridisation in diagnostic, prognostic and epidemiological research of HIV makes this a particularly valuable contribution for those involved in AIDS research.

All in all, the contributions to the volume are clearly written, well illustrated and profusely referenced. The book should undoubtedly be part of a virology laboratory but would also be valuable in a general medical library and useful as a reference for practitioners involved in infectious diseases.

B. D. SCHOUB

Perfused liver

Perfused Liver: Clinical and Basic Applications. Ed by F. Ballet and R. G. Thurman. Pp. 398. Illustrated. £46. London: John Libbey. 1991.

The technique of isolated perfused liver is a vital research method in hepatology, pharmacology, toxicology and metabolism. Two of the world's foremost workers in this field from INSERM, Paris and University of North Carolina, USA, have produced an excellent review of the latest advances in the perfused liver. The review on the subject, including that on hepatic microcirculation, structure of sinusoids, biochemical effects of cell to cell co-operation, zonality and cell polarity related to bile secretion is excellent with up-to-date information on current thinking the physiology of the liver.

The reviews on techniques related to using the perfused rat liver, including the use of miniature probes, the measurement of haemodynamics in the perfused rat liver and the use of newer techniques such as nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and spin trapping provide complete and balanced information regarding these techniques. The application of the perfused liver to a variety of clinical situations, including the investigation of cholestasis, drug and metabolite clearance, hepatic processing of proteins and peptides and a variety of metabolic functions are authoritative and up to date.

This book provides an excellent manual for anyone contemplating the use of the perfused liver and those experienced in its use. The technique is strictly one used in research laboratories and will thus have relatively limited appeal. However, the application of the perfused liver technique goes beyond the immediate use in a liver laboratory and has wide application in metabolic and exercise physiology, drug and toxin metabolism. This book is a mine of information and a useful practical guide to this important technique. It is a book that should be in the library of every university or institution where this technique may be applied.

M. D. VOIGT

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