

Books

Sustaining safe sex

By Susan Kippax, R. W. Connell, G. W. Dowsett and June Crawford. Pp. xiii + 218. R107,45. London: Taylor & Francis. 1993. ISBN 0-7507-0134-X.

This fairly short book is one of an excellent series of books on the social aspects of AIDS. It is about a research programme called the Social Aspects of the Prevention of AIDS project, which was conducted in 1986/87, and a follow-up study, *Sustaining Safe Sex*, conducted in 1991. Both studies were of men who have sex with men, since the Australian epidemic has been and remains overwhelmingly related to male-to-male sexual transmission of HIV.

The two studies found that there were changes in sexual practice towards greater safety, that there was a greater reliance on 'regular' partners and a reduction in 'casual' partners, that safe sexual behaviour was negotiated and that certain kinds of partners were avoided. The Australian gay community was thus able to create a safe sex 'culture'.

The book thus reveals that individualistic models of health promotion and behaviour change, such as the health belief model, are limited in their usefulness because they assume that there is a linear relationship between knowledge about HIV/AIDS and behaviour change. Rather, health behaviour and sexuality are socially constructed and AIDS research should examine collective, social strategies of change. The aim of such work would not be to change individual attitudes or health behaviours but move whole networks of people towards safe practice and to encourage among them the social processes that can sustain the prevention.

This has obvious relevance to South Africa. More research must establish the dynamics of the sexual lives of South African gay men, especially black gay men, and whether there are common understandings of what it means to be gay in the contexts of their interpersonal and social relationships. But we must also use social construction theories to examine the sexual lives of the heterosexual community and the implications of any findings for education and prevention strategies.

This is a thought-provoking contribution to AIDS research, which should interest not only social scientists but all of us involved in the preventive and care aspects of AIDS.

P. Brouard

The Ovary (Comprehensive Endocrinology)

Gered. deur Eli Y. Adashi, Peter C.K. Leung. Pp 703. Geïllustreer. New York: Raven Press, 1993. ISBN 7817-0079-5.

Hierdie gesaghebbende werk handel oor ovariale fisiologie en patofisiologie met uitgelese outeurs soos Yen, Baird, Adashi en ander. Baird se bydrae oor die induksie van ovulasie, polistiese ovarïële sindroom deur Erickson en Yen en die rol van die ovarium in hiperandrogenisme deur Azziz,

bring interessante perspektiewe op hierdie onderwerp. Aspekte van hierdie boek sal nie net vir die klinikus van waarde wees nie, maar ook vir die wetenskaplike geïnteresseerd in basiese fisiologie en navorsing in hierdie veld, sowel as kandidate in ginekologie wat vir die primêre eksamen voorberei.

T. F. Kruger

Anatomie vir Medies-verwante Studierigtings

Deur J. H. Meiring, G. P. Loots, H. L. Coetzee, S. W. Liebenberg, L. van Heerden en C. J. Jacobs. 2de uitg. Pp. x + 327. Geïllustreer. R136. Pretoria: J. L. van Schaik 1994. ISBN 0-627-01965-X.

In teenstelling met die gebruik dat anatomie vir mediese studente op 'n regionale basis aangebied word, word daar in hierdie anatomie vir die medies-wetenskaplike student van 'n sistemiese benadering gebruik gemaak. Dit hou sekere voordele in omdat die verskillende beroepsrigtings hulle veral op sekere aspekte van die anatomie toespits. So byvoorbeeld sou fisioterapeute baie meer klem lê op die gewigte, spiere en senuweestelsel, terwyl radiografiste miskien meer klem sou lê op osteologie. Daar word aangevoer dat so 'n benadering dit vir die studente makliker maak om 'n geheelbeeld van 'n sisteem te vorm. Daar is egter belangrike nadele aan dié benadering. Dit is veral lastig dat die senuweevoorsiening van die spiere nie verskaf word wanneer 'n spier bespreek word nie.

Alhoewel anatomiese verhoudings van strukture in die teks nie goed bespreek word nie, vergoed die goeie tekening van belangrike anatomiese areas tog hiervoor. Die uitstekende sketse deurgaans tref. Wat betref terminologie, word daar op 'n goeie kompromisbenadering besluit. Aangesien die suiwer anatomiese vaktaal nie gewoonlik in die werksituasie gehoor word nie, het die outeurs besluit om 'n verafrikaanse terminologie te gebruik, en dit slaag goed.

Hierdie hersiene uitgawe van 'n boek wat reeds 'n groot leemte gevul het, moet verwelkom word. Die boek is noukeurig versorg, goed geïllustreer en in 'n lekker leesbare styl geskryf. Dit word aanbeveel.

C. J. Miemy

Units, Symbols and Abbreviations

A Guide for Medical and Scientific Writers and Editors Ed. by D. N. Baron. 1994. 5th ed. Pp. 64. £10. London: Royal Society of Medicine. ISBN 0-905958-78-0.

What a marvellous little book this is! Not only is it a comprehensive reference book but it also boasts as one of its authors Maeve O'Connor, one of a few internationally renowned doyennes of medical editing and scientific writing. This is the fifth edition of a publication that first appeared in 1971, and I wish I had had it since then — life would have been much simpler.

This is not a book for reading, nor is it a book of conversion tables, though they are here. For writers, the book gives internationally accepted practices of expressing scientific measurements, concepts and principles. The use of italics (here called 'sloping type') as opposed to upright type, the use of capital as opposed to lower case letters, when to use full stops between letters and when not; it is all here. It also supplies some acronyms that may not be found elsewhere (e.g. AIUC — area under the curve).

The contents, if used by authors, will make the editor's life easier, since the formats will be according to the Instructions to Authors. One of the banes of an editor's life is a list of references formatted incorrectly for his/her publication. The two main styles are the Vancouver (numerical) and the Harvard (name and date) styles. They are explained, and examples are given. Guidelines are also given as to how to select references for your article, and which should be avoided.

Finally, proof correction marks and symbols are given, which will allow for standardisation. Editors who are denied the services of experienced subeditors will find this most useful.

One major point is that in this book the decimal comma is eschewed. Hooray! It is one of the most uncomfortable of our local customs, and as far as I am concerned, the sooner we get back to the decimal point, the better.

I wish I could afford to supply a copy of this book to every contributor to this and other scientific or educational medical journals. What I do recommend is that every department in every bioscientific faculty should purchase a copy.

F. N. Sanders

The University of Cape Town 1918-1948

By Howard Phillips. Pp. 482 (hard cover). Illustrated. R150 (vat incl.). Rondebosch, Cape Town: University of Cape Town Press. 1993. ISBN 0-7992-1499-X.

The present University, mixed racially and considering itself to have a liberal tradition, was not always so. Howard Phillips covers the period from 1918, when the University of Cape Town was officially transformed into a university, until 1948 when the government that was to legislate apartheid came into power.

This period saw substantial growth in numbers of students and faculties. There was initially an almost exclusive dependence on professors from overseas, especially from Scotland. Subsequently, talented home-grown professors were appointed. The policy of appointing young professors, often in their 20s or 30s, generally proved successful.

White males were predominant on the Cape Town Campus and the university residences were responsible for a feeling of cohesion. The ratio of English to Afrikaans speaking students, at first 70%:30%, tilted more and more in favour of English. Political differences flared up between these two groups; especially in the war years after 1939. Organisational upheavals were experienced in the resiting of the largest part of the University on the Groote Schuur Campus. Even here, the Medical School was sited a few

kilometres from the Upper Campus. Money was (and still is!) always insufficient for planned developments or for adequate remuneration of the staff.

UCT was the first university in South Africa to offer medical studies. The Faculty of Medicine grew rapidly, and by 1938 comprised 33% of all students. The numbers were reduced by many students offering themselves for war service. After the war, the large number of returning soldiers who swelled the numbers at the university offered an interesting insight into a form of affirmative action to cope with the influx.

The early clinical professors were allowed additional private practice, much to the dissatisfaction of the practitioners in the town. This was discontinued only in 1946 on the retirement of Professor Charles Saint, the first professor of surgery. (History turns full cycle with the re-introduction of limited private practice nearly 50 years later!)

Racism was alive and flourishing in the formative years. History records that nothing was done to assist coloured and Indian students who did their pre-clinical studies at UCT and were then obliged to complete their studies overseas. Only in 1943 did the Cape Hospital Board allow coloured and Indian students into hospitals, on condition that they saw no white patients, alive or dead. Nevertheless the university was even at this stage considered to be ahead of its time in terms of race relations.

These are some of the interesting snippets about the Medical Faculty which, because of its size and complexity, played a dominant role in university affairs. But the book is about the University as a whole as it evolved through troubled times, attracting and spawning talented people and significantly influencing the whole country.

The book is recommended as fascinating reading for UCT graduates to understand their professional roots and to others who have an interest in history.

J. P. de V. van Niekerk

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Advances in Pineal Research. Vol. 7. By G. J. M. Maestroni, A. Conti and R. J. Reiter. Pp. viii + 301. Illustrated. £32,50. US\$60. London: John Libbey. 1994. ISBN 0-86196-427-6.

Acetonitrile. Environmental Health Criteria No. 154. Pp. 110. SwFr.20/US\$18. Geneva: WHO. 1993. ISBN 92-157154-3. Order No. 1160154.

The Work of WHO 1992-1993. Biennial Report on the Director-General to the World Health Assembly and to the United Nations. Pp. xii + 182. Illustrated. (available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). SwFr.45/US\$40,50. Geneva: WHO. 1994. ISBN 92-4-156165-3. Order No. 1249293.

Biomarkers and Risk Assessment: Concepts and Principles. Environmental Health Criteria No. 155. Pp. 92. SwFr.18/US\$16,20. Geneva: WHO. 1993. ISBN 92-4-157155-1. Order No. 1160155.