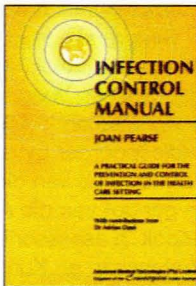


# Books

## ***Infection Control Manual. A Practical Guide for the Prevention and Control of Infection in the Health Care Setting.\****

By Joan Pearse. Contributions from Dr Adrian Dusé.  
Pp. 442. R185. Houghton: Jacana Education. 1997.  
ISBN 1-874955-63-8.

The publication of this book comes at a time when infection control in this country has been revitalised by the relaunching of the Infection Control Association of Southern Africa (ICASA). Infection control courses are being run at various centres and interest in the subject is growing among both nursing and medical personnel. The *Infection Control Manual* is a mine of information. It answers frequently asked questions such as: the correct handling of soiled linen; disinfection of endoscopes; cleaning of operating theatres; screening of staff for carriage of potentially harmful



organisms, and many more. Joan Pearse, having worked in the field herself for a long time, knows the frustration of not being able to find the information you are looking for and has gone to a lot of trouble to be as comprehensive as possible and still keep the book to a manageable size. The text is clearly laid out, almost in point form, and there are many helpful tables and references. The index is unfortunately not exhaustive but the layout of the book allows you to find what you are looking for relatively easily. While the timing of this publication is, in one respect, perfect as it fulfills a specific need, it unfortunately just predated a significant change in the CDC recommendations on isolation precautions in hospitals. In that one area it is regrettable already out of date. Despite this, the *Infection Control Manual* is a well-researched, clearly laid out account of all the basic information required for infection control practice and, as such, would be a valuable asset for both students and practising infection control personnel.

S Oliver

### **Paediatric Problems in General Practice.\***

3rd Edition. By Michael Modell, Zulf Mughall and Robert Boyd. Pp. xv + 337. R285. Cape Town: Oxford University Press. 1996. ISBN 0-19-262512-8.

This book, which deals with paediatric problems common in general practice in the United Kingdom, is just as relevant for South Africa. It makes interesting and easy reading. One is impressed by the collaboration between general practitioner, practice nurse, health visitor, social worker and others involved in the prevention and treatment of illness. Chapters include most facets of paediatric practice – from the newborn to adolescent, growth and development, illness, learning and behavioural problems, surgical conditions, genetic disorders, chronic illness and how to handle the terminally ill, as well as death in the family.

Incidence, differential diagnosis of signs and symptoms, and approach to management are all handled in a common sense, concise and evidence-based manner. Each chapter has an excellent bibliography.

There are growth charts and important reference tables, for example, false contra-indications to childhood

immunisations, causes of prolonged and unexplained fever, differential diagnosis of erythematous rashes and asthma management. There is a wealth of sound advice: 'Under three months of age neck stiffness in meningitis is a pretty useless sign because it is usually absent until late. Diagnostic tests in allergy are of limited value. There is no scientific evidence of long-term value for grommet insertion in glue ear – when first diagnosed, time and no drugs is often the most appropriate treatment. The headache of raised intracranial pressure is almost always worse in the morning and may wake the child. Parents frequently consult about toddlers' postural gait problems, fortunately most children's legs and feet are normal. The best advice with few exceptions is to do nothing.'

The only shortcoming in the book is that heart murmurs are not adequately dealt with.

This book should be recommended reading, not only for the family practitioner, clinic and day hospital doctor, but also the community paediatrician. Every paediatric tutor should read it. It is a potential best-seller and well worth the price.

L Movsowitz

### **Questioning the Solution. The Politics of Primary Health Care and Child Survival. With an in-depth critique of Oral Rehydration Therapy.**

By David Werner and David Sanders. Pp. xvi + 206. Illustrated. California: Health Wrights. ISBN 0-9655585-2-5.

In this provocative book the authors ask why 13 million children still die annually from preventable causes, and question the currently accepted solutions offered by industrialised countries to many problems facing children in the developing world. With detailed documentation they indicate that the underlying socio-economic and political causes of disease are frequently ignored, and explain how the western medical model, big business, privatisation of health services and structural adjustment programmes have often worked against the provision of primary health care.

The failure of oral rehydration therapy, the falling immunisation rates and the debt crisis are used to forward their argument that the magic bullet approach does little to address the inequities perpetuating poverty and poor health.

## **Best sellers**

The top three best selling books from the MASA Multimedia Book Department during December were:



**Medicinal Plants of South Africa** by Ben-Erik van Wyk, Bosch van Oudtshoorn and Nigel Gericke. R148. Briza Publications, 1997. R148. ISBN 1-875093-09-5.

**Atlas of Minor Surgery** by Ian D Cracknell and Michael G Mead. R200. Churchill Livingstone, 1997. ISBN 0-443-05304-9.

**Procedures in General Practice** edited by John Stuart Brown. R270. BMJ Publishing Group, 1997. ISBN 0-7279-1035-3.

\* 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

## **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.

**The Treatment of Drinking Problems. A Guide for the Helping Professions.\*** 3rd Edition. By Griffith Edwards, E Jan Marshall and Christopher C H Cook. Pp. xi + 367. £22.95 (paperback), £65 (hardback). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1997. ISBN 0-521-49793-0 (paperback), 0-521-49696-9 (hardcover).

**Earthquakes and People's Health. Vulnerability Reduction, Preparedness and Rehabilitation.\*** Proceedings of a WHO Symposium: Kobe, 27-30 January 1997. Pp. x 285. Illustrated. Geneva: WHO.

They identify the aggressive promotion of infant formula, the distribution of useless and dangerous drugs, and the manufacture of arms as the 'killer industries'. Examples from Africa and Latin America are used to illustrate how empowerment, democratisation and equity, and the education of women are the keys to true development and health for all. Werner and Saunders, in their courageous crusade, urge us not to despair but to help communities to develop their own solutions. All who are truly concerned about the welfare of children in our country should read this deeply disturbing account of the failure to confront the real causes of poverty and disease.

***Dave Woods***