



## BOOKS

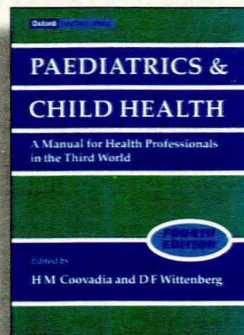
### PAEDIATRICS AND CHILD HEALTH: A MANUAL FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN THE THIRD WORLD\*

*Edited by H M Coovadia and D F Wittenberg. Pp. xi + 713. R175. Oxford University Press. 1998. ISBN 0-19-571181-5.*

This textbook of paediatrics has undergone significant changes since it was first published in 1984. Professor D Wittenberg has replaced Professor Loening as one of the editors. The contributing authors have also changed and include paediatricians practising in Zimbabwe and Malawi. The chapters have been rewritten and updated to reflect current understanding of the problem and they have been re-arranged in nine sections covering all aspects of paediatrics and child health. The changes do not, however, deflect from the original purpose of the book and that is to focus on the major paediatric problems in developing countries, such as tuberculosis, malnutrition and human immunodeficiency virus infection. Where relevant, specific priority issues and primary care of common problems are dealt with at the beginning of each chapter. For example in the chapter on respiratory diseases the importance of pneumonia as a cause of childhood mortality is emphasised and case management guidelines for home and ambulatory care outlines are given. In addition, clear guidelines for referral for inpatient care and for management of children with severe disease are given.

This reasonably priced textbook should be prescribed for undergraduate medical students and for postgraduate students studying paediatrics and child health in southern Africa. It will also be a useful reference book for other health workers, general practitioners and even practising paediatricians.

Gregory Hussey



### MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE AND CHRONIC PAIN\*

*Edited by Narinder Rawal. Series editors: Ronald M Jones, Alan R Aitkenhead and Pierre Foëx. Pp. ix + 231. £25.00. BMJ. 1998. ISBN 0-7279-1193-7.*

This volume is the latest edition in the series, *Fundamentals of Anaesthesia and Acute Medicine*. This book is based on the rapid advances in basic research into the study of pain, and its

application in clinical practice. It explores the anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology of acute and chronic pain. In acute pain, it discusses the management of obstetric, paediatric, and postoperative pain. In chronic pain, it probes the management of cancer pain, chronic low back pain, the use of implantable devices and other interventional procedures.

Recent understandings of peripheral and central mechanisms of pain as well as pre-emptive analgesia are presented. The pharmacology of primary analgesics and secondary analgesics are dealt with briefly. New routes of drug delivery both in the adult and paediatric patient, are highlighted. Postdural puncture headaches are also discussed. The use of directed, individualised treatment plans in the vast majority of people in all countries who experience low back pain at one time or another, is prioritised. The means of achieving adequate pain control in the vast majority of cancer patients with the rigorous and aggressive application of straightforward measures is emphasised. Finally, neuro-augmentation with peripheral or spinal cord electrical stimulation and the long-term placement of neuraxial catheters is described.

As 'pain medicine' is fast becoming a new sub-speciality in a number of countries throughout the world, such a concise update combining basic research with practical clinical applications, is to be welcomed.

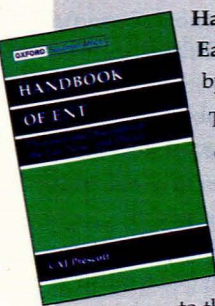
E A Shipton

### ALCOHOL POLICY AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN SOUTH AFRICA\*

*By Charles D H Parry and Anna L Bennetts. Pp. xii + 268. R99.95. Oxford University Press. 1998. ISBN 0-19-571584-5.*

This is a very important book and undoubtedly the most comprehensive and authoritative presentation of all matters

#### BOOK MANAGER'S CHOICE



**Handbook of ENT: Diseases and Disorders of the Ear, Nose and Throat**, by CAJ Prescott. Published by Oxford University Press, R150.

This book is a first in southern Africa, providing core knowledge of ENT disorders commonly presenting in the community. The extensively illustrated text includes a review of ENT anatomy and physiology, a structured approach to examination, a practical approach to the management of ENT disorders, guidelines for specialist referral, and a glossary of terms.

\* Book titles marked may be ordered directly from SAMA Health and Medical Publishing Book Department, Private Bag X1, Pinelands, 7430, tel. (021) 531-3081, fax (021) 531-4126, e-mail [multimedia@samedical.co.za](mailto:multimedia@samedical.co.za) or [jstrydom@samedical.co.za](mailto:jstrydom@samedical.co.za)



relating to alcohol abuse that has ever appeared in South Africa. It is a veritable compendium of facts, figures, policies and views about alcoholism and contains an extensive review of relevant overseas literature.

It deals in considerable detail with the use and misuse of alcohol and its consequences, intervention strategies, treatment procedures, rehabilitation, the training of health professionals and research. It is particularly strong on matters of policy. The section dealing with the consequences of alcohol misuse makes frightening reading: approximately 25% of hospital admissions are directly or indirectly related to alcohol use in South Africa and 30 - 50% of cases involve trauma victims.

The authors make it clear that there is no shortage of knowledge and plans to deal with this epidemic of alcoholism, but that the main problem with past national plans and strategies had more to do with the failure to implement plans due to lack of resources and other constraints than with gross imperfections in the plans themselves. In particular, both effective management and resources for the rehabilitation of alcoholics are lacking. They point to a lack of political will as the single biggest factor hampering efforts to address abuse.

The chapters on policy and intervention are particularly useful as they outline measures that can be used in primary health care to detect and deal with alcohol problems. In my view this book is essential reading and reference for anyone – health professionals, service providers and policy makers – who deal with the problems of alcoholism.

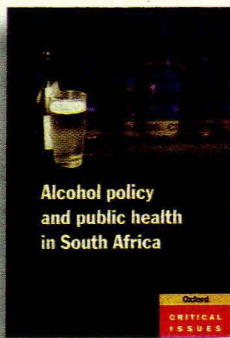
L S Gillis

## MEDIEVAL SURGERY\*

By Tony Hunt. Pp. xvi + 104. Illustrated. £14.99/\$69 Boydell Press. 1992. ISBN 0-85115-324-0.

It seems strange to be asked to review a book published in 1992 but because it deals with medieval medical history it does not become outdated.

This is a slim volume based on the illustrations which accompany a 13th century Anglo-Norman translation of Roger Parma's *Surgery* (c. 1180), which was the first original treatise on surgery to be written in the medieval West. The work is a tribute to the authors who have to interpret the text by means of Parma's drawings and to document the practice of medicine at that time. There are 50 drawings, each on a separate page of text with the author's analysis. The subject matter is usually of a surgical procedure or an examination technique, but also includes a number of dispensary scenes. The illustrations are



reproduced in their actual size which is rather small but in the simple line drawings the artist has managed to capture the setting vividly and with eloquent body language. The author relates the text to the drawing in a clear and logical way. The reader is able to gain an insight into the instruments used at the time and the way in which they were applied. Where the artists have used colour, the author describes this; it is a pity they were not reproduced in this fashion.

The book is obviously the work of a scholar. An interesting association between universities is shown – the original drawings are in Trinity College, Cambridge while the author is a Fellow of St Peter's College, Oxford. Anyone interested in medieval history of medicine will be excited by the book but it can be easily and profitably read and enjoyed for its artistic and medical interest by the professional and lay public alike. It is compact, hard-covered, with an attractive dust cover from the original work, and is well printed on good paper. At £15 it is good value for British readers.

Asher Dubb

## 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.

**International Travel and Health. Vaccination Requirements and Health Advice. Situation as on 1 January 1999.\*** Pp. 108. SwFr17/US\$15.30. WHO. 1999. ISBN 92-4-158024-0.

**Basic Tests for Drugs. Pharmaceutical Substances, Medicinal Plant Materials and Dosage Forms.\*** Pp. iii + 91. SwFr26/US\$23.40. WHO. 1998. ISBN 92-4-154513-5.

**Key Topics in Gastroenterology.\*** By SHC Anderson, G Davies and HR Dalton. Pp. ix + 286. £21.95. BIOS Scientific Publishers. 1999. ISBN 1-85996-281-5.

**Community Health Workers: The Way Forward.\*** Public Health in Action No. 4. By Haile Mariam Kahssay, Mary E Taylor and Peter A Berman. Pp. iv + 73. SwFr23/US\$20.70. WHO. ISBN 92-4-156190-4.

**Bone Marrow Transplantation.\*** By Richard K Burt, H Joachim Deeg, Scott T. Lothian and George W Santos. Pp. xxvi + 608. US\$45. Landes Bioscience. 1996. ISBN 157059560-7.

**Chrysotile Asbestos.\*** Environmental Health Criteria No. 203. Pp. xxi + 197. SwFr42/US\$37.80. WHO. 1998. ISBN 92-4-157203-5.

**WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization.\*** Forty-seventh Report. WHO Technical Report Series No. 878. Pp. vi + 101. SwFr20/US\$18.00. WHO. 1998. ISBN 92-4-120879-3.

**Transplantation Drug Pocket Reference Guide.\*** Second Edition. By Hans Sollinger and John Pirsch. Pp. 132. US\$45. Landes Bioscience. 1996. ISBN 157059-162-8.

**Calendar of Congresses of Medical Sciences 1999.\*** Pp. iv + 110. SwFr10. Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences. 1999. ISBN 92-9036-069-0.