

Books

Avery's Drug Treatment. A Guide to the Properties, Choice, Therapeutic Use and Economic Value of Drugs in Disease Management

4th Edition. Edited by Trevor M Speight and Nicholas HG Holford. Pp. ix + 1852. 1997. Auckland: Adis International Limited. ISBN 0-86471-036-4.

Graham Avery is on record as having stated that this book is for the student and clinician in practice. He also feels that it should be the starting point for those studying for higher exams. I concur entirely — this is an excellent book and should be within the reach of all medical practitioners earnestly wishing to improve their knowledge base (for purposes of examinations or personal satisfaction) and striving to offer their patients a better therapeutic service.

There can be no doubt that this book is indeed about clinical pharmacology when it details, for example, the investigation and clinical work-up of iron deficiency, as well as the optimum treatment of major depressive disorder and osteoporosis. As if this clinical approach is not enough, it broadens the role of the clinical pharmacologist by explaining the strategies to exploit the cytokine modulation for anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive effects. This is very well done in the chapter on immune system disorders. The chapter also, incidentally, deftly explains the pathophysiology of allergic rhinitis and asthma and of course includes the ubiquitous mast cell and its mediators.

I enjoyed the many flow diagrams and tables which always make remembering detail easier for me. The synopsis of important principles at the start of each chapter was of great benefit for quick reference. The chapters themselves are detailed and each is serviced by the relevant reference.

The porphyria section is inadequate and disappointing; the list of dangerous and precipitating drugs given in the book, by the author's own admission, is incomplete. This is perhaps a reflection on the absence from the contributor list of names from the world famous porphyria unit at UCT.

Pharmacoeconomics and drug prescribing are discussed with a view to 'assist in making informed clinical decisions by providing information about costs and consequences of alternative methods of treatment'. The now very topical 'healthcare management' comes under the spotlight here with close attention to the end result, i.e. quality of life. A closely allied topic and equally well presented is the chapter on pharmacoepidemiology, reporting on the usage of medicines in populations and the effects of such use.

There are appendices which give important data on the pharmacokinetics of drugs; the clinically more important drug interactions (an awesome amount of work and material) and the answer to that most worrisome of problems (the

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new addition to *Avery's Drug Treatment*), which is the section on the guide to the safety of drugs in breastfeeding. Here the advice is given based on a well-defined system which relates to postconceptual age.

The recommendations on drug prescribing in renal failure are sound and extensive. As usual the advice is given for the drugs and dosages to be administered according to the creatinine clearance. The list also includes information on whether the particular agent is dialysable or not (reference is made to both haemo- and peritoneal dialysis). Similarly, there is an excellent section on the drugs and dosages to be used in those with liver disease.

This book has a very comfortable feel about it; with the knowledge that it offers quality and up-to-date information, the readership/ownership of it is a must.

C R Swanepoel

Management of Injuries in Children*

By John F T Glasgow and H Kerr Graham. Pp. x + 423. Illustrated. £38. 1997. London: BMJ. ISBN 0-7279-0925-8.

This is the first edition of a practical handbook on the management of injuries in children. It was written by 2 emergency room physicians, both experts in their field, and bounds with practical advice.

The main focus of the book is on all aspects of emergency care and all recommendations are consistent with those propagated in *Advance Pediatric Life Support*. The authors have succeeded in describing the art of clinical examination of the injured child which is always difficult but essential to enable appropriate management to be established.

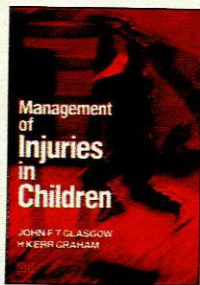
The 15 chapters are organised in a consistent format with practical anatomical information, and a structured approach to aspects of epidemiology, initial assessment, head injury, burns, fractures, child abuse and accident control, and injury prevention. I was pleased to see that a chapter on the writing of a medicolegal report was included.

Although the epidemiological of injuries and management programmes may be different in the developed World to our environment, I believe that the context of this handbook is directly applicable to our situation. These differences and alternative methods of management do not subtract from the inherent value of the book.

There are only 2 deficiencies: in that management principles are not followed by technique and the lack of references. The latter however is compensated for by an extensive list for further reading.

The book is easy to read, and an essential acquisition for all areas where injured children are treated. There is no doubt that this book on injuries in children will substantially contribute to our management protocols.

H Rode



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 Journal does not publish unsolicited reviews.

Emergency Ophthalmology: A Symptom Based Guide to Diagnosis and Early Management.* By Hung Cheng with M A Burdon, S A Buckley and C Moorman. Pp. ix + 335. Illustrated. £54. London: BMJ. 1997. ISBN 0-7279-0861-8.

Atlas of Breast Examination.* By Ian S Fentiman and Hisham Hamed. Pp. vii + 70. Illustrated. £20. London: BMJ. 1997. ISBN 0-7279-0857-X.

ABC of Work Related Disorders.* Edited by David Snashall. Pp. ix + 69. Illustrated. £16. London: BMJ. 1997. ISBN 0-7279-1154-6.

ABC of AIDS.* Edited by Michael W Adler. Pp. vii + 102. Illustrated. £20. London: BMJ. 1997. ISBN 0-7279-1137-6.

A Sceptic's Medical Dictionary.* By Michael O'Donnell. Pp. 209. R170. London: BMJ. ISBN 0-7279-1204-6.

Tobacco or Health: A Global Status Report.* WHO. Pp. ix + 495. SwFr155/US\$139.50. Geneva: WHO. 1997. ISBN 92-4-156184X.

The Use of Essential Drugs. Model List of Essential Drugs (Ninth List).* Seventh Report of the WHO Expert Committee. Technical Report Series No. 867. Pp. vi + 74. SwFr15/US\$13.50. Geneva: WHO. 1997. ISBN 92-4-120867-8.

Preterm Labor.* Edited by M G Elder, R F Lamont and R Romero. Pp. xii + 553. £69.50. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. 1997. ISBN 0-443-05857-1.

Determination of Airborne Fibre Concentrations. A Recommended Method, by Phase Contrast Optical Microscopy (Membrane Filter Method).* WHO. Pp. vii + 54. Illustrated. SwFr19/US\$17.10. Geneva: WHO. 1997. ISBN 92-4-154496-1.

The Implications of Antiretroviral Treatment. Informal Consultation April 1997.* Edited by Eric van Praag, Susan Feryak and Alison Martin Katz. Pp. 125. SwFr15/US\$13.50. Geneva: WHO. 1997.

Oral Morphine in Advanced Cancer. 3rd Edition. By Robert Twycross. Pp. vi + 42. £5.95. Beaconsfield: Beaconsfield Publishers Ltd. ISBN 0-906584-45-0.

Medical and Service Delivery Guidelines for Family Planning. 2nd Edition. By Carlos M Huezos and Charles S Carignan. Pp. xxii + 298. £12/US\$20. London: IPPF Medical Publications. ISBN 0-86089-115-1.

Family Planning Handbook for Health Professionals. The Sexual and Reproductive Health Approach. Edited by Imogen Evans. Pp. viii + 379. £14/US\$24. London: IPPF Medical Publications. ISBN 0-86089-114-3.

Oral Health Surveys. Basic Methods.* Fourth edition. WHO. Pp. vii + 66. Illustrated. SwFr19/US\$17.10. Geneva: WHO. 1997. ISBN 92-4-154493-7.

Intrauterine Devices. Technical and Managerial Guidelines for Services.* WHO. Pp. xiv + 175. Illustrated. SwFr54/US\$48.60. Geneva: WHO. 1997. ISBN 92-4-154497X.

Atlas of Surgical Techniques in Urology. Edited by Douglas Whitehead. Pp. xxi + 577. Illustrated. US\$201.25. Philadelphia: Lippincott-Raven Publishers. 1996. ISBN 0-397-51022-5.

Coronary Microcirculation during Ischaemia and Reperfusion. Alred Benzon Symposium 41. Edited by Stig Haunso, Jan Aldershvile and Jesper Hastrup Svendsen. Pp. 478. Illustrated. Copenhagen: Munksgaard. 1997. ISBN 87-16-11940-1.