



HERBERT P. WIEDEMANN, MD, EDITOR

## HANDBOOK OF MEDICAL TREATMENT

by William Skach, Charles Daley, and Christopher Forsmark  
Yearbook Medical Publishers

Anxious house staff seeking a pocket-sized medical manual will be glad to find the 18th edition of *The Handbook of Medical Treatment*. The authors, senior residents, fellows, and staff at the University of California at San Francisco have endeavored to write a "comprehensive up-to-date approach to common medical problems" geared toward "medical students, house staff, practicing clinicians, and paramedical professionals." Although this appears to be a rather ambitious task, they have succeeded in compiling a noteworthy condensed work.

The book's 516 pages are divided into 26 sections spanning the major topics in internal medicine; however, major subdivisions are confusingly arranged. One chapter is devoted to "Renal Diseases," while "Respiratory Failure" and "Diabetes Mellitus" are allotted chapters separate from "Respiratory Diseases" and "Endocrine Disorders." It would have been more appropriate to organize the text by organ systems.

The discussion of each disorder is neatly divided into introductory paragraphs describing the basic principles or pathogenesis, followed by a properly placed emphasis on diagnostic approach and therapeutic recommendations. The book is replete with charts and tables that complement the text.

The topics addressed tend to be those not commonly seen in the outpatient setting. Yet, students and house staff would do well to carry this book with them on the wards as a valuable, quick reference.

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## DECISIONS IN ADULT ACUTE CARE

by Philip H. Goodman and Kenneth J. Kurtz  
Raven Press

*Decisions in Adult Acute Care* is 179 pages of charts and tables of information deemed necessary to facilitate care for the sick adult patient. Included are flow diagrams of the advance cardiac life support protocols,

guidelines on administering streptokinase, a chart showing how maneuvers affect cardiac murmurs, and step-by-step instructions relating to chest-tube insertion, to name a few. The book is nicely organized by organ system, is well indexed, and has a brief list of references. The information is, for the most part, relevant and important, although I do not think a chart of the lung-capacity subdivisions or a list of curable cancers belonged in this book.

The text is difficult to read because it appears to have been typed from a personal computer with a mix of type sizes and prints. The lists are long, the charts are complex, and explanatory text is minimal. While students and interns may find the lists tedious and difficult, senior-level house staff and practicing physicians would probably be able to put the information into perspective and welcome the lists and tables when confronted with the acutely sick patient.

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## RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS: DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT

Edited by James E. Pennington  
Raven Press

The second edition of *Respiratory Infections: Diagnosis and Management* is a comprehensive text covering infectious diseases of the upper and lower respiratory tract. The book is written in a straightforward, practical style, with most chapters sequentially covering the epidemiology, pathology, clinical presentation, and therapeutic considerations of a particular disease or organism.

The book is divided into five sections covering the pathogenesis of respiratory infections; diagnostic techniques for respiratory infections; the clinical occurrence of respiratory infections, in which the probable pathogens are discussed from the context of a particular clinical scenario such as bacterial pneumonia in the elderly; a section covering the individual infectious agents in greater detail; and finally, a section specifically addressing therapeutic considerations such as antibiotic penetration, the use of newer antibiotics, and the use of ad-

junction measures in the treatment of respiratory infections. Notable updates include an outline in the first section of significant advances in understanding of the immune responses of the lung, a new chapter about AIDS, and a number of updated portions in other chapters dealing with AIDS-related issues. A short section has been added addressing the use of newer antibiotics but should not be considered a definitive discussion of these agents. Other chapters remain relatively unchanged from the original edition.

The practical clinical approach of the book should prove useful to the general practitioner or internist. The text is well referenced, making it an excellent resource for the specialist in pulmonary or infectious diseases. I strongly recommend *Respiratory Infections* as a worthwhile addition to one's medical library. Those owning the first edition, however, may find the changes do not warrant purchasing this newer edition.

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## RESPIRATORY FUNCTION OF THE UPPER AIRWAY

Edited by Oommen P. Mathew and Giuseppe Sant'Ambrogio  
Marcel Dekker

For this 35th volume of the Lung Biology in Health Disease series, the editors selected a unique and often neglected topic: the contribution of the upper airway to pulmonary function. The book succeeds in explaining in detail the physiologic mechanism by which the upper airway contributes to the function of the respiratory system. The authors represent a wide array of specialists.

The text begins with a historical perspective, followed by a brief discussion of the evolution of the upper airway in vertebrates. The upper airway is described anatomically; the components are described in extensive detail with excellent illustrations. Included is a chapter dedicated to the structure and function of striated skeletal muscle in the upper aerodigestive tract.

The core of the book focuses on the central organization of respiratory function, afferent and efferent pathways, and reflex arcs that determine the upper respiratory component of respiratory control. Biomechanical aspects of the upper airway function, including components of nasal air flow resistance and modifications of inspired air, are emphasized. Additional topics include neonatal airway regulation and reflexes, phonation, and effects of tobacco on the upper airway.

The book is well organized; each chapter focuses on a

particular topic and covers the appropriate clinical and experimental data. Illustrations are well presented and supplement the written text. An extensive bibliography accompanies each of the chapters.

This ambitious work takes a controversial topic and attempts to provide a unified approach by integrating a large body of data. The text will serve as an excellent reference for pulmonologists, otolaryngologists, physiologists, and pediatricians.

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## BREAST CANCER: COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT

Edited by Jay K. Harness, Harold A. Oberman, Allen S. Lichter,  
Dorit D. Adler, and Robert L. Cody  
Lewis Publishers

Unusually broad in scope, with topics ranging from the economics of breast cancer to nursing care, this book is based on a conference held at the University of Michigan Breast Care Center in 1987. The conference focused on collaborative management of breast-cancer patients and the role of comprehensive breast centers.

The text is divided into four sections, but only the fourth, dealing with psychosocial issues and wellness, constitutes a unified segment. Chapters in the other three sections cover epidemiology, informed consent, the layman's perspective, mammography, fine-needle aspiration, surgical technique, radiation, chemotherapy, and reconstruction. Miscellaneous but interesting topics are the contralateral breast, pregnancy, occult carcinoma, and Paget's disease of the nipple. Surprisingly, there is no chapter on in situ cancer, which continues to be a dilemma for both patient and clinician.

A major focus is the new concept of comprehensive breast centers. The University of Michigan center is described in detail, and the future role of such centers is discussed. The authors believe that marketing forces will increase the importance and number of "breast centers" throughout the country. This topic has received little formal attention to date, and anyone with an interest in establishing a center should read this book. Having said that, I must add that my own efforts to set up such a center foundered on a variety of economic issues not completely explored by the editors. Remarkably, the Michigan center provides a broad range of services for a flat fee of less than \$50. Although not so stated, the Michigan model appears to be a "loss leader" that can be justified locally by the fact that it attracts patients re-