

## Book Reviews

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**Problems of the Pleural Space**, by G. Hugh Lawrence, M.D., Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Co, 1983, 118 pp.

This is a unique monograph dealing, as its title implies, with problems of the pleural space. This topic has been reviewed comprehensively by the author and is organized conveniently into nine chapters. Each chapter deals with a specific problem, with its contents arranged in a logical sequence. In every case, the evolution of the treatment modality is presented from a historical perspective, which adds greatly to the reader's understanding of both the disease process and its treatment.

This monograph is a compilation of a body of information that is not currently available in any other single source. It is an important addition to the general thoracic surgical literature and is particularly useful for residents in training. Not only does it serve as an excellent teaching aid, but it also serves as a reference source for a group of diseases that fewer and fewer thoracic surgeons have extensive experience in treating.

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**Handbook of Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring**, by Julian T. Parer, M.D., Ph.D., Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1983, 240 pp, \$18.00.

This handbook is an abbreviated review of the use and techniques of electronic fetal heart rate monitoring during the antepartum and intrapartum periods. Included are basic observations relating to the many methods of fetal surveillance and to fetal and placental physiology. The book also comprises discussions of acid base and vagal and systematic control of the fetal heart rate. The instrumentation available for heart rate and fetal scalp monitoring is described. The author then discusses the various kinds of heart rate patterns and comments on the management and complications of the various monitoring techniques. The data are current, and the figures are clear. Finally, a section dealing with data storage and the legal aspects of monitoring, which should be of interest to all clinicians, is included.

Since little that is new has been added to the field

of fetal heart monitoring during the last ten years, this is a comprehensive summary—not an update. The style of writing is clear and without redundancy. The overviews of physiology, labor management, and monitoring techniques are appropriate.

This is a reasonable review for residents or for those who do not use heart rate monitoring frequently. The *Handbook of Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring* would be a good publication to have in the labor and delivery room for all personnel.

The author's background includes study at the University of Oregon and in the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of San Francisco. He is presently Associate Professor and Director of Obstetrics; Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences; School of Medicine; and on the associate staff of the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the University of California, San Francisco.

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**Clinical Vascular Disease**, by John A. Spittell Jr., M.D., Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Co, 1983, 346 pp, \$45.00.

The spectrum of vascular disease covered in this book is vast, ranging from arterial and venous problems to vasculitis, pulmonary embolism, and thrombolytic therapy. The editor, Dr. John A. Spittell, Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, attempts to present topics which have traditionally been overlooked in medical schools and postgraduate residency training programs. He has incorporated the experience and opinions of 23 authors representing six major institutions east of the Mississippi River plus the Mayo Clinic. He has presented a stimulating and eloquent text, drawing on the expertise of these individuals and employing 145 illustrations throughout the book.

The contributors have used a mix of illustrations, including photographic, angiographic, graphic, and plain-view examples of the diseases. The photographs showing the gross pathology of various conditions are excellent. Microscopic illustrations are limited primarily to the chapter dealing with vasculitides. The mul-

tidisciplinary approach to the text makes it readable and enjoyable. Despite inclusion of surgical viewpoints, the intricacies of surgical techniques are not discussed.

If there are any shortcomings of the text, one might be that the photographs are black and white. Certain subtleties in gross presentation, especially of cutaneous manifestations, are thus difficult to appreciate. Yet, color photographs would have made the book considerably more expensive.

*Clinical Vascular Disease* describes a panorama of vascular conditions in a succinct and illustrative way. It is a concentrated presentation of common vascular conditions seen in the daily clinical setting. In particular, the book offers a valuable contribution to the reference library of clinicians and physicians in training alike. Dr. Spittell and his associates are to be commended for presenting a logical approach to heretofore neglected aspects of clinical vascular disease.

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**Handbook of Dermatologic Treatment**, by R. Kenneth Landow, M.D., Greenbrae, Calif.: Jones Medical Publications, 1983, 219 pp, \$13.95.

This pocket-size (5¼ × 8¼ in), softback treatise is less a therapeutic cookbook than a concise overview of the more common dermatologic diseases, their pathologic mechanisms and diagnostic methods, and a variety of broadly based treatment methods for each.

The author has attempted to answer questions regarding skin disease that are repeatedly asked by medical students, house officers, primary care physicians, and dermatologists in training. He seems to have accomplished much of his intent. Medical students and nondermatologist house officers who spend time as observers in a dermatology clinic will find the book valuable. They usually see a great variety of

diseases whose diagnoses have been established. There may be little time for discussion or in-depth reading, and the major textbooks are bewilderingly detailed. This handbook will give them a quick notion of what they have seen and more than just one attending physician's approach to management. The references, although not always the latest nor the best, will at least provide a place to begin further reading.

Dermatologists in training will usually need more comprehensive coverage. The actual treatment of patients should not be undertaken with this handbook as the sole source of information. Of necessity, a book of this size deals mainly in generalities. Therapeutic methods are presented more to display possible or likely approaches than to guide the inexperienced in actual treatment. Simply stating that dapsone (100 mg per day, administered orally) is effective treatment for certain conditions hardly constitutes adequate instruction in its use. The alert reader will see that there is a brief chapter on the use of sulfones that presents some of the pharmacology and some cautions to be observed, but is not comprehensive.

Some of the therapies mentioned are too esoteric for a handbook (e.g., patients with chronic furunculosis may be treated by attempting to recolonize them with the nonpathogenic 502A strain of *Staphylococcus aureus*, and levamisole may be tried to stimulate granulocyte chemotaxis). Since these materials are unavailable in most institutions, space could be better used by presenting more practical measures.

Printing is well done, with few errors. The indexing seems adequate. There are no pictures.

In general, the *Handbook of Dermatologic Treatment* can be recommended as a quick reference for observers in a dermatology clinic and as a potential source of ideas for those who manage patients with skin disease.

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