

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 inexpert 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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