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CONTROVERSIES IN BREAST DISEASE: DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT

Edited by Sharon Grundfest-Broniatowski and Caldwell B. Esselstyn, Jr.
Marcel Dekker

More than another review of the standard topics in breast disease, this book presents new and valuable perspectives in a number of ways. First, certain topics are covered by "outsiders," such as a surgeon's discussion of adjuvant chemotherapy. In addition, there are numerous authors from outside the U.S., whose chapters are excellent presentations on benign breast disease, management of breast pain, chemotherapy trials stressing the European experience, and subcutaneous mastectomy. These chapters are well written and provide new insights for American readers. The American authors break new ground as well; a chapter by Edwin Fisher forces us to rethink the value of early detection. The medical establishment may have oversold the value of early detection, and Dr. Fisher deserves credit for a careful reassessment of the facts.

Similarly, C. Barber Mueller casts a critical eye on clinical trials dealing with surgical treatment of early breast cancer and especially the way in which results are reported. The information presented here will enable the reader to more accurately evaluate such trials in the future. Unfortunately, this excellent chapter is missing a portion of its selected bibliography.

The book also has valuable chapters on epidemiology, methylxanthines in breast disease, as well as updated breast preservation results from Milan, the Institute Curie, and the Cleveland Clinic. The chapters from Cleveland deserve careful attention since there are no other major centers reporting on breast preservation *without* radiation.

A final section details the experimental successes of immunotherapy (called "biologics" by the authors) in breast cancer screening and treatment, but its optimistic note is hard for me to justify, given the long history of unfulfilled promises in this field.

Controversies in Breast Disease is not a reference book nor is it necessary to read or appreciate every chapter.

However, it will certainly provide new and valuable information to all physicians interested in breast disease.

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MANUAL OF CARDIAC DRUG THERAPY

By M. Gabriel Khan
W.B. Saunders

This second edition concisely reviews drugs used in cardiovascular medicine today. Individual chapters deal with calcium antagonists, beta blockers, and diuretics. These drugs are reviewed with specific attention to their mechanism of action, pharmacokinetics, and approved indications. There is also a section on experimental agents undergoing study.

The section on beta blockers does a more than adequate job in reviewing all but esmolol and labetalol. The chapter on diuretics could have expanded more on lipids. Definite strengths are the sections dealing with hypertension, angina pectoris, acute myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, and arrhythmias. Other chapters pertaining to agents used for antiplatelet and thrombolytic therapies, as well as treatment of hyperlipidemias and endocarditis, suffer from a lack of attention to fine details.

Each section begins with a brief description of the diagnosis and clinical presentation of a disorder, and then proposes a treatment scheme. The treatment scheme incorporates a rather involved review of each therapeutic agent, indications and contraindications, side effects and, most importantly, interactions with other therapeutic agents. The chapter on cardiac arrest reviews concepts of basic and advanced cardiac life support and the drug therapy involved.

In general, the *Manual of Cardiac Drug Therapy* is a worthwhile book. It would be helpful to senior medical students, medical or surgical residents in training, and possibly for noncardiovascular subspecialty staff and fellows in training. The book does provide certain therapeutic pearls for the cardiovascular specialist, especially

in its relatively extensive review of the pharmacology and interaction of commonly used agents.

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training of doctors, thereby adding an eighth piece to this fine book.

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NEW PROSPECTS FOR MEDICINE

Edited by Jonathan M. Austyn
Oxford University Press

This book comprises the collected Wolfson College Lectures for 1987, given at Oxford University. The theme of the lectures provides the book's title. Seven authorities spoke on a topic: Sir Raymond Hoffenberg on "Modern Medicine: Prospects and Problems," Sir Walter Bodmer on "New Approaches to the Prevention and Treatment of Cancer," D. J. Weatherhall on "The New Genetics," G. R. Dunstan on "The Promise of Transplantation," Stephen Lock on "Information and Medical Journals: The Future," and Lewis Thomas on "The Future of Medicine." In his introduction to the book, the editor ably ties together the issues and material of each lecture.

Each chapter is appropriately individualistic, happily both cordial and personal. Lock and Thomas are particularly notable in this regard. As befits a lecture, none is too long. All are well composed and easy to read. The sections on genetics and transplantation, however, require a specialized background for thorough appreciation.

New Prospects for Medicine is topical and timely, with a helpful historical orientation to many of the issues discussed. It should cultivate a readership well versed in policy, philosophy, science, law, and especially medicine. The Wolfson Lectures for 1987 were carefully put together, and their clarity and perspective commend them to all readers interested in "the big picture" wherein medicine is so important. However, appreciating the boundaries of a lecture series, it would have been good to have found room for a discussion of the education and

ALLERGY PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

Edited by Elliot Middleton, Charles Reed, Elliot Ellis,
N. Franklin Adkinson, Jr., and John Yunginger
C.V. Mosby

This is the third edition of what has become a standard textbook in allergy and clinical immunology. Volume one is devoted to basic sciences, including immunology, physiology, and pharmacology.

The section on immunology provides concise summaries of recent developments clinically relevant in the field of allergy, such as the mediators of immediate hypersensitivity and late phase reactions. Chapters on aerobiology, allergenic extracts, and in vitro and in vivo allergy testing are also in the immunology section.

Coverage of some of the experimental drugs is brief. The promising anti-allergy compound, azastine, is only mentioned in the antihistamine chapter.

Asthma is covered in massive detail, encompassing 10 chapters and 250 pages. There are two chapters devoted to rhinitis, nasal polyps, and sinusitis; these could have been expanded with the inclusion of rhinoscopy and computed tomograms of the paranasal sinuses in the management of sinusitis and nasal polyps.

The chapter by Selner and Condemi on unproven diagnostic and therapeutic techniques for allergy is extremely valuable in preparing the physician to answer questions about alternative treatments.

The editors have done an excellent job dividing this two-volume textbook into focused and easily readable chapters. The book is well indexed, and each chapter has an extensive and current list of references. *Allergy Principles and Practice* is a necessity for practicing allergists and is an excellent reference for pulmonologists and primary care physicians.

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