Practical Guide to the Care of the Medical Patient by Fred F Ferri : 6th edition. Published by Elsevier/Mosby, N Delhi in 2004. Paper back with 1202 pages, ISBN : 81-8147-503-8.

With increasing quantum of work from the residents, more medical awareness, and lesser time available to interneers undergoing training, more and more books for ready references are being marketed. The sixth edition of Ferri's Practical Guide to the Care of Medical Patient' is one such concise manual. It has used clinical algorithms, tables and colour plates to simplify topics and to make it reader friendly. It has mainly emphasized on practical problems faced by residents and medical students to serve as ready reference during OPD and ward work. The first chapter deals with brief mention of important clinical signs and laboratory methods. The second chapter enumerates differential diagnoses and causes of 175 common medical symptoms, signs and medical syndromes. This is followed by chapters on diseases affecting major systems including dermatology, infectious diseases and interdisciplinary medicine. However, only the common diseases in each system have been covered. The manual has emphasized practical clinical information, and has omitted the details of pathophysiology and epidemiology. There are two chapters, which deal with common medical procedures, laboratory values and their interpretation. More than 150 common laboratory tests have been listed with causes of

abnormal results. There is also a chapter on drug formulary, which provides essential and concise information of more than 170 commonly prescribed medications including dosage, indications, contraindications and side effects.

The author has tried to give latest clinical information in a concise form on common medical problems, drug therapies and laboratory tests. He has tried to combine clinical aspects meant mainly for medical students as well as therapeutic aspects meant for residents and clinicians working in OPD and emergency dept. The emphasis is more on general clinical approach to a problem than on tackling medical emergencies. Although, the colour design and use of tables and colour plates makes it an easy reading, the volume of the book has become bulkier than the intended intention of a pocket reference book. Another drawback is very poor coverage of tropical diseases with no mention of malaria, typhoid, kala-azar etc. It however is a good book for quick revision of medicine at undergraduate level and is of some value for residents preparing for examination.

Contributed by:

Lt Col Sharat Johri

Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune-411 040.

Atlas of Occupational Health and Disease by Nerys R Williams and John Harrison, 1st edition: 2004. ISBN 0340740698 published by Arnold, member of Hodder Headline Group, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH. Website www.arnoldpublishers.com Hard bound with 140 pages, Rs.4900/-

It was during the Industrial revolution when public attention was drawn to the various occupational diseases and work-related health hazards. Clinicians showed a growing deal of interest in the subject in the 20th century, following the footsteps of such doyens as Thomas Legge and Donald Hunter. However, to actually visit workplaces to acquaint oneself with the hazards remains a luxury for most clinicians. This book has an array of photographs of

workplaces and work-related diseases, which tries to provide a realistic pictorial substitute. It is ideal for the trainee and occupational health physicians, and serves as a concise textbook as well as an illustrative reference for almost all occupational disorders and their causes. The book has the chapters arranged as per the ninth edition of Hunter's Diseases of Occupations, and can be read in conjunction with this reference book.

This book is recommended as a reference book for any library.

Contributed by:

Wg Cdr S Mukherji*, Lt Col AK Jindal, vsm⁺

^{*,+}Associate Professor, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune-411 040

Mental Health : An Indian Perspective 1946-2003 by Dr SP Agarwal, DS Goel, RN Salhan, RL Ichhpujani, S Srivastava, First edition published by Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi. Publisher Elsevier, a division of Reed Elsevier India Private Limited 17 Apr, Main Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi 2004, pages 532. Not priced. For institutional libraries.

Mental disorders have profound implication on the health, well-being and productivity of individuals and their families as well as the entire community. This resulting emotional stress leads to an impaired quality of life, including substance abuse, alcoholism, delinquency and risk taking behaviour patterns that contribute to major public health problems, like HIV/AIDS. Increasing suicide rates are another cause for deep concern.

Dr SP Agarwal and his team have attempted to present a wide spectrum of views on the state of mental health in India, primarily from a public health perspective that includes, an over view of the

Indian scenario, early years of mental health care in India with particular emphasis on the British influence, the origin and growth of general hospital psychiatry and the National mental health programmes.

The book discusses the present challenges in Psychiatric rehabilitation, private sector psychiatry and issues related of the needs of special groups and contemporary issues. The book is a composition of rich experience and knowledge of the contributors. Even though the book is not priced, it is priceless to have one in the institutional library. The information provided in the book is invaluable to the postgraduate students, as no such treatise exists on mental health scenario in India till date.

Contributed by:

Col D Saldanha

Professor & Head, Department of Psychiatry, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune-40