Book Review

The ASI, Text Book of Surgery. Editor: Ahmad A Hai, Associate Editor: Rabindra B Shrivastava, First Edition – 2003. ISBN 0-07-462149-1. Published by Tata McGraw. Hill Publishing Company Limited, 7 West Patel Nagar, New Delhi 110 008. Pages – 1444, Printed in India by Tata Mc Graw Hill Publishing Company Limited. Price- Rs. 1395/-

A comprehensive text book for surgical student and trainee, guiding the reader through Key Core Surgical topics which are encountered throughout an integrated medical curriculum as well as subsequent practice.

Written and published by a team of highly experienced teaching

Manipal Manual of Clinical Medicine by BA Shastri; First edition, published by CBS Publishers & Distributors. New Delhi, Bangalore; 2004; ISBN No. 81-239-1120-3. 400 pages. Price Rs. 275.

The Manipal Manual of Clinical Methods is a simple book in clinical methods for undergraduate and post graduate students of medicine. The approach to diagnosis is on the standard pattern of general examination followed by a chapter on each system. Surprisingly there is no chapter on history taking which should form the basis of physical examination. The physical signs are explained lucidly and often with illustrations, making them easy to understand. The interpretation of these signs and their differential diagnosis has been highlighted. The general lay out is reminiscent of what a student is often required to know for the examinations. This

World Atlas of Epidemic Diseases by Andrew Cliff, Peter Haggett and Matthew Smallman-Raynor, 1st edition: 2004. ISBN 0340761717 Published by Arnold, member of Hodder Headline Group, 338 Euston Road, London NW1 3BH. Website www.arnoldpublishers.com. Hard bound with 212 pages, Rs. 8500/-

The history of epidemics is as old as the history of mankind itself. The euphoria that greeted the eradication of small pox has been largely offset by the emergence of new pandemics of HIV/AIDS and Influenza sweeping across countries and continents. This Atlas has shown the global distribution of fifty great infectious epidemic-causing diseases, ranging from small pox, measles and poliomyelitis to malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Newly emergent diseases ranging from Legionnaire's disease, Ebola-Marburg

and operating surgeons, with contribution from 138 doctors, under the aegis of The Association of Surgeons of India, covering all general and allied surgical problems with particular emphasis on those that are prevalent in India and nearby Asian countries.

A holistic approach has been employed to describe all aspects of surgical conditions in a systematic manner using a simple and student friendly language.

Contributed by:

Brig Gurjit Singh

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book priced at Rs.275/- is useful for revising the important points in physical diagnosis. It however, does not teach the students on how to communicate effectively with patients, nor does it emphasize on the importance of a systematic and orderly method of examination. Unlike the standard textbooks of clinical methods that attempt to make the student skillful in history taking, interpretation of physical signs and diagnosis of diseases; this book emphasizes on memorizing a large number of symptoms and signs and their differential diagnosis. It is a good buy for a quick revision before an exam, but not for those who want to learn the art and science of practice of medicine.

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Col AS Narula

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fever, Hantavirus fever and Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease have been covered, highlighting their epidemic potential. With the maps and illustrations being primarily from World Health Organisation, the book becomes an updated reference for authenticated facts. The text which accompanies the maps and illustrations summarises three aspects of each disease: (a) its basic nature and impact; (b) its historical origin and past epidemics caused; and (c) its current status and world distribution, including the probability of future control.

This book is recommended as a resource for anyone interested in the spread, control and eradication of epidemic diseases.

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