BOOK REVIEWS

Management of poisoning by J. Henry and H Wiseman, First Indian edition, published by AITBS Publisher and distributors, J-5/6 Krishan Nagar, Delhi - 51 (2002) with 314 pages. Rs. 400/-ISBN 81-7473-150-4.

This book is a publication of World Health Organization, which enjoys copyright protection. The book deals with various types of poisons, poisoning, prevention of poisoning and first aid including cardiopulmonary resuscitation and care of a poisoned patient. It gives in details the specific poisoning from pesticides and chemicals used in industries and also poisoning due to medicine, plants and natural toxins. It has been specially written for people who are likely

to provide first aid to a poisoned person. This book will be very useful for medical, paramedical personnel and community health workers working in Rural Communities. As the book is meant for first aiders, very little information has been given about chronic poisoning.

Contributed by :-

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Decision Making in Medicine-An Algorithmic Approach, 2nd edition. Edited by Harry L. Greene II, William P. Johnston, Dawn Lemcke, Harcourt (India) Private Ltd. 1988(second Indian reprint 2001); pages 614. Price Rs 750/-

The ultimate aim of patient evaluation process is to reach a diagnosis and initiate the most logical and appropriate therapeutic intervention. For this, one acquires knowledge from textbooks, electronic media and clinical observations and tries to use it for the desired aim in a given patient. However, it is easier said than done. What helps one most is the step-wise logical approach. This book is an attempt in that direction.

The book has stated limited objective of bridging the gap between the didactics of a larger textbook and the experience of seasoned physicians. It is therefore, quite different from a textbook. In a no-nonsense manner it focuses on an algorithmic approach to decision making in clinical medicine. All right-sided pages have algorithms while the left-sided pages carry brief explanations. A few references have been provided for each topic.

The book is divided into 5 sections. The first section on General Medicine deals with 12 common symptoms in day-to-day practice and also includes a chapter each on Preventive Health Services for Adults and Perioperative evaluation. The second section on Internal Medicine is devoted to the common problems pertaining to different subspecialties of Medicine including a section each on Dermatology, Women's Health and Urology. The third section on Emergency Medicine includes conditions like acute pulseless extremity, foreign body ingestion, caustic ingestion and exposure,

human and animal bites, snake venom poisoning, hypothermia, drowning and near drowning. The fourth section on Behavioral Medicine should be of interest to both the psychiatrists and the internists as it includes each routine problem like alcoholism, anxiety, depression, grief, psychosis, smoking cessation, suicidal patient etc. The last section on Pharmacology deals with approach to acute and long-term anticoagulation, evaluation of adverse drug reactions, antimicrobial use and evaluation of drugs.

It is obvious that the book should be of interest to a wide spectrum of medical and paramedical personnel at various levels. Because of its different and somewhat novel approach it tries to amalgamate the textbook knowledge and pragmatism. Inclusion of some more emergencies in the section on Emergency Medicine and some more common drugs in the Pharmacology section will enhance its utility. The book should be of great help to the general practitioners, internists and residents alike in organizing their thought process and adopting a systematic approach to management in a variety of common clinical situations. This will mean ordering investigations in an appropriate manner and thus cutting the cost for the patient-an important factor in medicare, especially in developing countries. The print quality is good and the hardbound edition is quite reasonably priced.

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A Radiological approach to disease of the chest by Irwin M. Freundlic and David G. Bragg II Edison. Published by Williams and Wilkins Baltimore, Maryland USA in 1997. 866 pages. Price \$150

This book is designed for readability as well as for reference. The format is somewhat unique, as there are 13 'approach' chapters in which the reader is introduced to the subject and in which he or she will find multiple differential diagnostic possibilities. Armed with the knowledge gained, he/she can then turn to one or more chapters directed into the disease entity. The book has various chapters with chapters dealing in psychology and anatomy thereby providing an insight into the pathological process. The higher imaging modalities like the CT scan and MRI with impetus on

transthoracic needle biopsy is dealt with adequately. There is a complete chapter on AIDS in which chest affection is central in many patients and thereby assists one to approach the entire spectrum of illness better. The picture quality is excellent with adequate and clean delineation of necessary pathology in the image. It may be said that the authors have succeeded in creating an interest in the PG student and provide an understanding into the Radiology of chest diseases.

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