How to write a paper, edited by George M Hall. Published by Byword Publishers, Delhi. First Indian Edition 1996. Pages 117; price Rs 65/-

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Originally published by BMJ publishing group in 1994, this book aims at aspiring authors but is equally beneficial to those who are established medical writers. Sixteen topics related to various aspects of preparation and publication of a scientific paper have been contributed by the experts in the field.

Analysis of basic structure of a paper i.e. introduction, methods, results and discussion (IMRAD) has been dealt in simple language in initial chapters. Chapters on writing case reports, review articles and abstracts for scientific

meetings are interesting. Role of editor and publisher in bringing out an article in a journal or a chapter in book will be of interest to most of us. Printing and cover design are of good quality. Most of authors are anxious about their first contribution. A chapter or two on this aspect would have enhanced the value of this book. Subsequent editions of book may highlight role of computers (PC) and electronics in preparation of the article.

Considering contents, cost and quality I will recommend this book for libraries and individual authors.

Lt Col PC SANCHETEE

Executive Editor

Medical Journal Armed Forces India,

Pune 411040

Vascular Surgery Principles and Practice, 2nd edition. Veith FJ, Hobson RW, Williams SE, editors. Publisher: McGraw Hill, New York, 1994. Pages 1250, illustrations 786 with 18 colour plates and 36 black & white plates. Price \$55. ISBN 0-07-112879-4.

The second edition of this textbook has been comprehensively updated and revised and several new chapters have been added. The book has been divided into 12 parts with a total of 88 chapters covering the entire spectrum of vascular surgery including portal hypertension, vascular access procedures for haemodialysis, and vascular aspects of organ transplantation. The chapters have been contributed by acknowledged authorities in their field. The editor (FJ Veith) is himself a living legend, having a vascular society named after him in the USA, and he has ensured a textbook of high quality.

Each major topic is dealt with in a concise and logical fashion, progressing from history and pathophysiology through critical elements in diagnosis and treatment. The areas of controversy or uncertainty have been adequately highlighted. An entire section has been devoted to the fast developing field of endovascular surgery and interventional techniques covering angioplasty,

angiосcopy, intravascular ultrasound and atherectomy devices. An added asset in the book is the depiction of commonly performed vascular surgical procedures and techniques in 36 black and white plates; the reader need not consult a separate atlas for understanding the steps of the operation.

Though the text is fairly comprehensive, Takayasu's disease and arteritis are dealt with too briefly. Similarly the section on Buerger's disease (thromboangiitis obliterans) could have been more exhaustive. The chapter on pentoxifylline and vasodilators is also too short, even for a surgical textbook. The chapter on lumbar sympathectomy also misses out some of the important details.

This is a concise yet comprehensive practical text for the surgeon caring for patients with vascular diseases. It is also a valuable reference for students and doctors interested in management of vascular disease, and it is a very good buy for a medical library.

Lt Col KM RAI

Vascular Surgeon, Reader, Dept of Surgery

Armed forces Medical College, Pune 411040