BOOK REVIEWS

Index Medicus for WHO South-East Asia Region. Volume 11 Jan.-Dec. 1991. Published by World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia, New Delhi (India). Hard bound with 1089 pages. Complimentary copy. ISBN 92 9022 1305.

A valuable health literature information generated by the member countries of the World Health Organization South-East Asia Region (SEARO) is not adequately covered in the international abstracting and indexing periodicals. In order to bring it under bibliographical control, SEARO, in collaboration with National Focal Librarians of the HELLIS (Health Literature, Library and Information Services) Network, has started compiling Index Medicus for South-East Asia Region (IMSEAR) since 1980. So far IMSEAR Volumes 1-6 (1980-1986), 11 (1991) & (1992) have been published. The gaps i.e. IMSEAR Volumes 7-9 & 13 for the years 1987-1989 and 1997 are proposed to be compared/revised and filled up.

WHO's persistent endeavours to provide efficient and effective access to health Services information published in biomedical

periodicals from the South-East Asian Region is commendable. The Index covers periodicals published in countries of South-East Asia Region of the WHO. These countries include Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Periodicals in English language or abstracts being in English are included. However there appears to be a considerable delay in despatch of volume 11 (Jan-Dec 1991) and the Volume 12 is yet to arrive in this Library of repute. This needs to be streamlined for the future. It could also be further updated with references from newer Asian Journals which are constantly being Indexed and are easily accessible upto the tertiary levels being comparatively cheaper.

The Index Medicus SEARO is recommended for valuable use in all the Medical College Libraries of the Countries.

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Text Book of Community Medicine by Dr. AP Kulkarni and Dr. JP Barida. First Edition published by M/s Vora Medical Publications, Agarwal Bhawan Kidwai Marg Wadala, Mumbai-400 031, 1998, Pages 548 Price Rs.280/- ISBN 81-86361-41-3.

Park's text book of Preventive and Social Medicine is already available. It has not been found to be interesting to read by the Medical undergraduates. Text book of Community Medicine by Dr. Kulkarni and Dr. Baride has come at the right time, since the MCI has revised the curriculum of the MBBS course. The book written in simple and easily understood language makes interesting reading. The contents of the book are most suitable for the medical students.

The book particularly meets the requirements of medical students in Maharashtra as the organisation of Health Services in the state has been given in details.

Some common spelling mistakes have been observed. The binding of the book is also not satisfactory as pages get detached very easily. The book is recommended as a suitable text for the MBBS students and as a rapid revision for PG students.

Lt Col BS NASIR

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Bedside Clinics in Medicine - Edited and Written by Dr AK Kundu, 412 pages, Illustrated, Soft cover, Calcutta, Academic Publishers 1997 Rs.225/- ISBN - 81-86358-48-X.

With the current plethora of comprehensive books on clinical methods the question whether another book of this type is needed should be addressed. Prof AK Kundu's book is not an original concept. Nevertheless, in its favour, this book focuses on bedside clinical information regarding signs and symptoms. It endeavours to prepare undergraduate and post-graduate students for clinical examinations. It is comprehensive with wide coverage of all systems. The book is attractively produced. Clinical photographs are

very clear and useful. In most chapters author has provided very useful tables for differential diagnosis. However book lacks emphasis on pathophysiological aspects of various signs and symptoms. On the whole, book has been written in lucid and systematic fashion. It is informative and will help students in preparing for the examinations.

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