BOOK REVIEWS

MANUAL OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE First edition by Dr. R Alagappan, published by Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers (P) Ltd, B-3, EMCA House, 23/23B Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Post Box No. 7193 New Delhi-110 002, Pages 568, ISBN 81-7179-607-9.

This book is written for undergraduate and postgraduate students and practising physicians. The book gives us a comprehensive package of clinical methods and principles of internal medicine including essential investigations and management of common medical emergencies. There are illustrations at appropriate sections in the book to explain the methods of eliciting clinical signs. The readers will definitely benefit by the lucid description given about

THE LOOMING EPIDEMIC-THE IMPACT OF HIV & AIDS IN INDIA. Edited by Peter Godwin. Published by Reuben Israel for Mosaic Books, B-17, 2nd Floor, Lajpat Nagar Part 2, New Delhi-110024 (India). Hard-cover with 204 pages: Price Rs.450/-, ISBN 81-85399-41-7.

Medical literature has been flooded with a plethora of information on HIV/AIDS in the last decade and a half. Yet, little if any literature is devoted to the aspects of critically analysing the impacts of this epidemic on the health services. Peter Godwin has collected analytic frameworks, reports of research findings and views of experts in different fields of HIV/AIDS. The authors have in the various chapters of the book, lucidly outlined the situation in India, describing the likely impact of the looming epidemic on the medical, social and economic sectors, as well as attempted to suggest steps necessary to prevent the spread of HIV in the country. The book has especially attempted to highlight the critical areas in which basic social welfare infrastructure will be threatened by the increased morbidity and mortality associated with the epidemic.

CLINICAL ORTHOPTICS edited by Fiona Rowe. Published by Blackwell Science Ltd. Osney Mad, Oxford, 1997. Paper back, £ 25. Pages 280 Oxford ox 2 OEL.

Disorder of ocular motility constitute one of the most common ocular ailments and are considered the single most common cause of uniocular blindness. However the ophthalmic community does not give the due importance to these and patients suffering from these disorders are either not treated at all or treated half heartedly in the most unscientific manner allowing the habitually deviated eye to pass into a state of irreversible amblyopia. Learning about strabismus involves the understanding of the basics like binocular single vision, the intricate afferent and efferent pathways for innumerable reflexes like accommodation, convergence, fusion, fixation and other psycho-optical reflexes and various internuclear associations in the intracranial areas. Considering the complexity of the subject, any book or publication which can discuss all the important issues concerning this subject in a simple and effective way & generating interest in the readers is welcome.

The book under reference has brought up all aspects of the

various aspects of medicine in the book.

The cost of the book is not mentioned hence the affordability cannot be commented upon. The references have not been mentioned for further reading by postgraduates and physicians. This book is recommended for medical students, postgraduates and for Medical Libraries.

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The editor also introduces an unconventional element at the end of certain chapters by including a short discussion recorded between himself and a person living with HIV. A chapter has also been devoted exclusively to a particularly important area: gender differentials.

The book provides a good mix of the conceptual frameworks put forth by the authors, substantiated by first hand experiences of people living with the AIDS virus. It gives an insight to a reader interested in understanding the medical, social and economic impact of the AIDS epidemic. It also, suggests some of the techniques and approaches for assessment of the problem and its solution. The book is recommended as a reference book both for the MBBS and Post Graduate students.

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motility disorders in a methodical way starting with the principles of orthoptics & then going on to the anatomy & physiology of the extra-ocular muscles, classification of squint & the practical steps in investigating & managing disorders like concomitant squint, incomitant squint, associated A-V pattern in squint, accommodative squint, microtropia, amblyopia & nystagmus. There are chapters on neuro ophthalmic disorders like ptosis, pupillary abnormalities, myogenic disorders causing squint & internuclear & supra nuclear disorders.

The book, inspite of being nonvoluminous in size unlike many other text books on strabismus, seems to be very useful for students undergoing post-graduate study as well as ophthalmic practitioners dealing with ocular motility disorders. The sketches displayed within the text are self explanatory and provide useful information and guide to the readers to deal with any type of ocular motility disorders.

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