

Paediatric handbook, fifth edition

By: The staff of the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia

Ed: Efron D

Blackwell Science Pty Ltd, 54 University Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053, Australia

A\$39.95, pp 520, ISBN 0 86793 337 2

I have enjoyed reading the Paediatric Handbook, which is intended to be a reference for use by general practitioners and hospital residents working in paediatric units. The handbook of 520 pages and 35 chapters gives a clear and concise account of the current management of problems that are frequently encountered in paediatric practice.

One of the new features in this edition is the incorporation of management algorithms, but I have only found some of them to be useful. The chapter on 'Pharmacopoeia' by Frank Shann consists of 50 pages of useful drug dosages which most paediatricians will find immensely helpful. Two chapters, 'The death of a child' and 'Acute pain management', deal with two

common problems frequently neglected in paediatric texts, and should be interesting to residents.

Although the management protocols featured in the book may sometimes be different from those recommended in Hong Kong, most hospital trainees will find the handbook a useful handy reference in their daily practice.

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A clinical atlas of Chinese infants

By: Li AMC, Yeung CY

Hong Kong University Press, 14/F Hing Wai Industrial Centre, 7 Tin Wan Praya Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong

HK\$120, pp 96, ISBN 962 209 390 6

This 96-page pocket-size book consists of 160 clinical photographs collected by two paediatricians, each with over 30 years of experience of practice in Hong Kong. As the authors state in the preface, a number of paediatric atlases are already available but this is the first one that uses only illustrations of Chinese infants. Although most of the conditions described are not unique in Chinese infants (there are in fact very few such conditions), an all-Chinese paediatric atlas should be welcomed by local health care givers and medical students who have to deal with Oriental babies in their day-to-day practice.

The book is divided into eight sections: The Newborn (27 illustrations), The Preterm Baby (13 illustrations), Trauma (12 illustrations), Infection (18 illustrations), Congenital Conditions (36 illustrations), Syndromes (29 illustrations), Jaundice (9 illustrations), and Development in the First Year (16 illustrations). Except for the last section, most of the book's contents are devoted to the neonatal period, despite its

title which implies a wider coverage from birth to 12 months. This is, however, understandable as most of the occurrences of morbidity in infancy have their origin from birth. The illustrations are nicely presented and have been well-chosen to cover a wide variety of topics. Personally, I would like to see more illustrations of normal neonatal conditions included in the 'Newborn' section, but a book of this size could not be exhaustive.

The authors have meticulously put together a variety of common conditions and some rare but visually interesting ones, and I think this is an effort well spent. Most of the photographs are of an acceptable quality. There are, however, a few that are out of focus or have been taken under suboptimal lighting. Although not significantly affecting the book's readability, they are straining to the eyes and would be an area for improvement when the authors consider writing their second edition. The legends are concise, easy to read, and accurately describe the conditions.