

Therapy of Advanced Melanoma. Vol. 10

P. Rümke, ed. 170 × 245 mm. Pp. 230 + viii. Illustrated. 1990. Basel, Switzerland: Karger. £82.50 hardback.

This is a useful summary of current therapy available for advanced melanoma, written by authorities in the various treatment areas. It deals in detail with metastatic disease, much less so with adjuvant therapy of poor risk cases, but this is not surprising in view of the general lack of efficacy of these agents. Surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy are well covered in the first half, with a good account of the value of isolated regional perfusion. The second half deals with the area of biological response modifiers, potentially exciting but yet to be translated to usefulness in routine clinical practice. The references are up-to-date with a few from 1989.

Anyone looking for a quick summary of this field would find the book useful, and it would be a valuable addition to libraries of any hospital with an oncological interest. Those working in the field will probably be well aware of the material in this book, and will be looking to the latest results with biological response modifiers.

The index unfortunately is hopelessly inadequate, and out of keeping with the production quality of the rest of the book.

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Nails: Therapy, Diagnosis, Surgery

Scher and Daniel. 190 × 264 mm. Pp. 302. Illustrated. 1990. London: W. B. Saunders Co. £78.50 hardback.

This is a compact but comprehensive multi-author text dealing with the normal and abnormal nail and nailbed. The book provides up-to-date information concerning nails and is directed widely in an attempt to interest general physicians, dermatologists, surgeons, pathologists, basic scientists, cosmeticians, and the pharmaceutical industry. The first five chapters cover the normal nail and make a useful reference section to help understand the pathologies which may affect the nail and nailbed.

The remainder of the book is of limited interest to the general surgeon, but does contain two concluding chapters on nail surgery, one on basic surgery and one on advanced surgery. The former chapter would be of interest to the junior general surgeon, while the latter chapter might be of interest to accident and emergency specialists or orthopaedic surgeons with an interest in hand surgery.

In summary, this publication will be a useful reference text, but not a book that will be commonly found in a surgeon's personal library.

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The Cause and Management of Aneurysms

R. M. Greenhalgh, J. A. Mannick, eds. 170 × 250 mm. Pp. 475. Illustrated. 1990. London: W.B. Saunders Co. £55.00 hardback.

It seems that there is an 'epidemic' of aortic aneurysms in Western society and this book, which contains 44 separate pieces better described as 'monographs' than 'chapters', is timely. Many aspects of aneurysms are explored and, not surprisingly in view of the book's editorial provenance, it is aneurysm of the abdominal aorta that has pride of place. There are 76 contributing authors from across the world: 29 from the UK and Ireland, 22 from continental Europe, 21 from North America, and four from elsewhere. The list of contributors contains mostly well known vascular surgeons whose considerable experience lends great authority to the volume.

Well over half the book is devoted to the clinical management of aneurysms, including a specific section on inflammatory lesions. This text is written by acknowledged experts for practising surgeons. A further section deals with practical aspects of presentation and investigation. Of the 475 pages, 76 are devoted to the mechanism of dilatation which is an area of 'expanding' interest in vascular surgical circles. The book is liberally and clearly illustrated with clinically-

related material and, for the most part, the monographs are backed up by extensive and up-to-date references.

It is difficult to construct a well integrated volume when it is necessary to accommodate the idiosyncracies of so many individual authors. Nevertheless, this book has little in the way of overlap between monographs and the differences of opinion expressed by different authors shed a useful light on where the current controversies in aneurysm management lie. This is a book for experienced surgeons and those in training who intend to make vascular surgery a particular interest. It is an excellent reference work for any vascular unit and comes highly recommended.

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Spot Diagnosis in General Surgery

H. Ellis. 146 × 210 mm. Pp. 240. Illustrated. 1990. Hong Kong: Blackwell Scientific. £9.95 paperback.

The place to learn to recognize common surgical conditions is in the out-patient department, and there is no substitute for this theatre of life, in which cases are taken 'straight from the street' and transformed into patients who have been accurately diagnosed and properly handled. In many teaching centres the time allocated for surgical instruction has been drastically cut, and in a few such centres 'common' surgical conditions are rather rare. Professor Ellis has produced an excellent book to supplement, or even partially replace, didactic instruction of clinical students in the basics of out-patient recognition of surgical cases. The photographs are superb, and the accompanying questions are cunningly devised to test large parts of the essential information required about each condition. For those of us who know Professor Ellis's stature as a teacher this is no surprise and the text reflects his outstanding qualities of clarity, incisiveness and vigour. I recommend familiarity with this book to every undergraduate who is approaching his Finals, which will go far to ensure success in the 'short cases' section of his clinical examination.

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Surgical Endocrinology: Clinical Syndromes. 2nd edn.

S. R. Friesen, N. W. Thompson, eds. 190 × 260 mm. Pp. 454. Illustrated. 1990. Philadelphia, USA: J. B. Lippincott Co. \$79.50 hardback.

A signal feature of the past decade has been the foundation of national surgical endocrine associations not only in the UK and USA but also in many European countries. They flourish and prosper showing that surgical endocrinology, both the science and practice, are vibrant and active. This dynamism is reflected in this book – *Surgical Endocrinology: Clinical Syndromes*. Thirty-nine authors from five countries have contributed to this second edition which is divided into two sections. The first deals with recent advances in diagnosis and management and the second with clinical syndromes. Each chapter is concisely written with a logical sequence characterized by excellent illustrations and a comprehensive bibliography. A particular and welcome feature is that the editors are not passive collators but make an individual comment at the end of each chapter; such active participation and distilled experience is invaluable.

This is an excellent book, easy to read, up-to-date and avoiding a dogmatic format but with a formative style. There is something here for any surgeon. A definitive guide for the fellowship candidate and a valued reference book for the established surgeon. It certainly deserves a place in every postgraduate centre library and on the bookshelf of the surgeon with an endocrine interest.

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