

ting physicians in family medicine or emergency medicine.

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### **Manual of Otolaryngology: Diagnosis and Therapy**

edited by Marshall Strome, James H. Kelly, and Marvin P. Fried, 287 pp, with illus, \$27.50, ISBN 0-316-81968-9, Boston, Mass, Little Brown & Co, 1992.

This second edition of the *Manual of Otolaryngology* covers most common ear, nose, and throat problems and many otolaryngologic emergencies. The text has eight contributing authors and was written to provide concise, timely information that can be applied to the medical care of patients. The information is organized in a functional manner for the practicing physician.

This pocket-sized text is similar to others but is more detailed. The eight chapters are arranged primarily by anatomic division (ear, larynx, etc). There is also a chapter that focuses on emergencies, and the final chapter addresses otolaryngologic manifestations of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

All chapters provide concise and current information and are well written. Family physicians will find the overview of the ear and larynx to be of particular benefit. In the review of the ear, most common problems are discussed, including vertigo, otitis media, serous otitis, otitis externa, and other diseases of the external canal. Diseases are discussed in a pragmatic manner, providing useful signs and symptoms for diagnostic purposes and a clear plan for treatment. The overview of vertigo provides a list of common nonvestibular causes of dizziness and schematic representations of the clinical spectrum of dizziness. Tympanometry is briefly reviewed; unfortunately, graphs of the

different curves generated and an explanation of how to interpret the tympanogram are not included. Cholesteatoma is reviewed and a clear, useful definition is presented.

The chapter on the larynx includes a thorough review of the anatomy and evaluation of the larynx. The overview of stridor is one of the best I have ever reviewed. Hoarseness, including acute and chronic causes, with appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic recommendations for the primary care practitioner, is also discussed. The latter part of this chapter gives an overview of neoplasms of the larynx and of respiratory obstruction. This section is quite detailed and much of the diagnostic information is more appropriate to the otolaryngologist. This chapter also contains an appendix entitled "Voice Evaluation and Rehabilitation," which provides a detailed review of speech and voice therapy that could be useful in making appropriate referrals to speech pathology.

In the chapter on the head and neck, the ethics of head and neck surgery are discussed, as well as therapeutic interventions. The statement,

... it is the mature physician's responsibility to lucidly present all the available data and to assist a fellow human being in reaching a decision that is most appropriate for a given psychologic and social set,

shows an ethical concern for the patient not appreciated in many such texts. Head and neck surgery can impact negatively, both psychologically and cosmetically, regardless of the therapeutic triumph. The authors of this section are to be commended for their caring approach to the patient, an approach that is familiar to the family physician.

In summary, the *Manual of Otolaryngology* is an inexpensive, well-written, informative, pocket-sized book. It is a handy reference for the office setting and in the pocket of the learner on the wards. Although many chapters contain information beyond the scope of ambulatory family medicine, all chapters contain use-

ful primary care information. I recommend this book as a good reference manual on otolaryngology. It is easy to read and is a good resource for quick, clear, and thorough information about common otolaryngologic problems.

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### **Conn's Current Therapy 1993**

45th ed, edited by Robert E. Rakel, 1274 pp, \$55, ISBN 0-7216-6745-7, Philadelphia, Pa, WB Saunders Co, 1993.

Most primary care physicians are already acquainted with *Conn's Current Therapy 1993*. Now in its 45th edition, this textbook has a well-deserved reputation as a useful reference of up-to-date treatment strategies for the practicing physician. The 1993 edition tackles 286 clinical problems and also includes an appendix of important laboratory values and a thorough index. Subject matter is arranged according to organ systems, with the exception of an introductory section on the symptomatic care of the patient and a closing section on physical and chemical injuries that also includes an extensive discussion of acute poisonings. While the format of most of the topics presented includes a brief introduction, etiology, description of signs and symptoms, and diagnosis, the emphasis is clearly on treatment. The writing is remarkably crisp, clear, and consistent, given the fact that 369 authors have contributed to this book. Over 500 tables and figures further distill concise treatment methods into nicely packaged units of information such as an analgesic ladder for the management of cancer pain, an endocarditis prophylaxis regimen, a dosage schedule for antiemetic therapy, and guidelines for the treatment of calcium stone disease.

*Conn's Current Therapy 1993* teems not only with novel but occasionally

consonant medical treatments such as cisapride for constipation, plicamycin for Paget's disease, tocinide for tinnitus, and colchicine for cirrhosis. New and fascinating therapies are offered, including the use of recombinant factor VIII for hemophilia, octreotide for acromegaly, ketoconazole in the medical management of pituitary Cushing's disease, dapsona for recluse spider bites, and fludarabine in advanced chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Even a brief description of the recent visceral syndrome affecting American soldiers serving in the Persian Gulf is included. Helpful hints abound in these more than 1200 pages, such as the value of L-carnitine in the prevention of toxic effects of valproate, the frequent association of hyponatremia in *Legionella* pneumonia, and the use of glucagon in the treatment of refractory hypotension of anaphylaxis. One has to admire a medical textbook that even includes useful telephone numbers like those for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Medic Alert Foundation, Alzheimer's Association, AIDS Clinical Trials Information Service, and the Arthritis Foundation. *Conn's Current Therapy 1993* also debunks some common practice patterns. For example, its authors are adamant that stool softeners have no role in the treatment of chronic constipation and that the routine use of antibiotics for acute bronchitis is not justified (since viruses are the primary pathogens).

Although rare, there are errors. For instance, the dosage of omeprazole (Prilosec) for dyspepsia or peptic ulcer disease is incorrectly listed as 40 mg at bedtime on page 12. Some drugs that are referred to as investigational or experimental, such as itraconazole (Sporanox), are presently approved by the Food and Drug Administration and are available. As expected, a textbook of this scope is subject to some overlap of topics and even redundancy. Repetitive discussions appear throughout the book, including descriptions and individual characteristics of  $\beta$ -blockers, the administration and toxicity of am-

photericin B, estrogen replacement therapy, and glucocorticoid therapy schedules. One might question the allotment of space when topics like "Bullous Diseases" of the skin and "Obstetric Anesthesia" receive seven and one-half and eight pages, respectively, while "Childhood Enuresis" gets less than one page and "Otitis Media" not even two. Nevertheless, the diversity of clinical subject matter presented is suggested by the following especially excellent commentaries: "Management of the Patient With HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] Disease," "Mitral Valve Prolapse," and "Multiple Sclerosis."

*Conn's Current Therapy 1993* is an outstanding book, and the 1993 edition continues the legacy of a splendid reference for primary care physicians who desire a fresh and often innovative approach to the management of common and sometimes uncommon problems in the office and in hospital settings. A careful reading of this entire textbook will require an investment of approximately 42 hours by the average family physician, but it is time well spent. More likely, physicians will use it as a handy reference with information that is concise, precise, accessible, and applicable. *Conn's Current Therapy 1993* is highly recommended to all family physicians as an essential textbook in their medical library. Although treatments, technology, and times change, *Conn's Current Therapy 1993* suggests, "Good advice is never outdated."

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## BOOKS RECEIVED

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### Handbook of Pediatric Infectious Diseases

by Paul J. Edelson and Gary J. Noel, 295 pp, \$25, ISBN 0-316-21074-9, Boston, Mass, Little Brown & Co Inc, 1992.

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### Collaborative Clinical Education: The Foundation of Effective Health Care

by Jane Westberg and Hilliard Jason, 373 pp, \$49.95, ISBN 0-8261-8030-2, New York, NY, Springer Publishing Co Inc, 1993.

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### Medical Teaching in Ambulatory Care: A Practical Guide

by Warren Rubenstein and Yves Talbot, 121 pp, \$27.95, ISBN 0-8261-7690-9, New York, NY, Springer Publishing Co Inc, 1992.

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### Residents as Teachers: A Guide to Educational Practice

by Thomas L. Schwenk and Neal Whitman, 84 pp, \$15, ISBN 0-940193-03-5, Salt Lake City, Utah, University of Utah School of Medicine, 1993.

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### A Doctor's Journey: The Chronos Directive

by Robert Klein and William Bryant, 152 pp, \$14.95, ISBN 0-533-10192-1, New York, NY, Vantage Press Inc, 1993.

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### Sexual Abuse Counselling by Family Practitioners: Issues Across the Treatment Process and Management Strategies

by Gary Drenfeld, tape and booklet, 13 pp, \$35, ISBN 1-895853-03-6, Dundas, Ontario, Secrets of the Trade, 1993.

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### Cardiology

6th ed, by Desmond G. Julian and J. Campbell Cowan, 416 pp with illus, \$32.50, ISBN 0-7020-1644, Philadelphia, Pa, WB Saunders Co, 1992.