

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 β -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."

Tony Miksanek, MD
Benton Medical Center
Benton, Ill

BOOKS RECEIVED

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.