

Book Reviews

A COLOUR ATLAS OF OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY

Bruce Benjamin, Brian Bingham, Michael Hawke and Heinz Stammberger. Martin Dunitz, London 1995. ISBN 1853171220. Price £129.95. pp. 360. Illus. 1300.

This atlas provides a superb guide to the range of clinical conditions within our speciality. As many of the signs necessary to effect a clinical diagnosis in any given case are hidden to all but an individual observer, the place for a general atlas to guide the trainee is undeniable. While this atlas ranks as an introductory text there is much to interest the more experienced clinician. Indeed, it provides a dramatic case for anyone as yet unconvinced by the value of endoscopic assessment in routine examination of the upper aerodigestive tract.

The atlas is divided into specific sections on the ear, nose, oral cavity, larynx, trachea and head and neck. Each is excellent and very relevant. The section on the larynx is quite outstanding. Any atlas stands on the quality of its images and the photographic work is truly superb. I found photographs under blue light of Fluorescein demonstrated CSF rhinorrhea particularly striking. The authors have used similar photographic systems to achieve a consistent quality throughout the volume. Unsurprisingly, this book is dedicated to Karl Stortz whose influence through instrument manufacture has allowed the very images that are presented.

Generally the clinical photographs and illustrative radiographs are well chosen to illustrate specific points. Each section includes normal examples together with common and rarer pathology. Several conditions are illustrated with serial pictures illustrating the development of the pathology. Each image is accompanied by a brief note of the clinical features that allows an uncluttered presentation which is easy to read.

It seems churlish to criticize such a work but I found the frequent change of sides between right and left ears or endoscopic views of the nose within a given section rather than between sections rather irritating. This is scarcely noticeable for the experienced clinician but becomes harder to transpose between sides for the novice. Some greater consistency might have been preferable for the sake of clarity but it does at least demand attention from the reader.

Interestingly most sections show post surgical results and some complications. These are more helpful yet there are no such pictures within the section on the ear. This is perhaps the only detraction from an otherwise comprehensive collection.

It is difficult to imagine how this work might be further improved. In this age of universal endoscopic

assessment this volume deserves a place in every department library as an invaluable teaching aid.

DAVID GOLDING-WOOD

COLOUR GUIDE TO ENT

N. D. Stafford and R. Youngs. Churchill Livingstone 1994. ISBN 0-443-04954-8. Price £8.50. pp. 115

AN ILLUSTRATED COLOUR TEXT. EAR, NOSE AND THROAT AND HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

R. Dhillon and C. A. East. Churchill Livingstone 1994. ISBN 0-443-04299-3. Price £16.50. pp. 115.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT DISEASES.

A pocket reference. 2nd, revised edition. W. Becker, H. Naumann, and C. Pflatz. Thieme 1994. ISBN 3-13-671202-1. Price £23.25. pp. 557.

Of these three books aimed at junior medical staff, G.P.'s, and medical students, the last two are also written for nurses. They cover a wide range of topics in varying degrees of depth, and are all well illustrated.

Stafford and Youngs' compact, pocket size, illustrated book covers many of the common conditions seen in an ENT department. Opposite the 152 photographs, almost all of good quality, is a short sketchy note on aetiology, clinical features and management. It is extremely easy to read from cover to cover. However, it would be used, perhaps best, as an aid to identifying conditions seen on the ward or in outpatients. It is unfortunate that in the space given the text is kept to a minimum. It is not a book I would buy, but rather borrow and dip into during one of those quiet moments in clinic!

Dhillon and East's, A4 size, excellent book breaks new ground in presentation and style. There are X-rays, MRI's, CT's, 152 colour photographs and a plethora of quality line drawings. Each topic is neatly covered in a two page 'learning unit' finishing with a key note summary. This enticing format includes sections on relevant anatomy and physiology; up to date techniques of ENT investigation and examination; new developments such as cochlear implantation and the use of sleep studies to investigate snoring and sleep apnoea. The overall impression is only slightly marred by small errors, for example; the definition of croup as acute laryngitis; the failure to include nebulised adrenalin as a first line treatment of laryngotracheobronchitis. A recommended first buy for anyone interested in ENT.

I hope that in an era where the written word is fast becoming superseded by the computer, its style and presentation will be noted by future authors.

Becker, Naumann and Pfaltz have produced the definitive text for the aspiring junior ENT specialist. It is compact, pocket size, and has an in-depth appraisal of the subject matter. Beautiful line drawings coupled with 100 colour photographs, give this book a distinct edge over the other two. Each of the eight chapters begins

with applied anatomy and physiology followed by sections on methods of investigation and clinical findings. Brief descriptions of operations and instruments are also included. For quick reference common ENT emergencies are indexed on the last page. Despite its sometimes awkward presentation and unfortunate lack of any X-rays, CT's and MRI's, it is the one I would most strongly recommend.

JUSTIN WEIR