This is a long and excellent book and well worth the price.

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Dictionary of Medical Ethics

The status of the medical profession rests not only on the service provided, it reflects society's trust in the standards of practice observed. At all levels this implies that moral obligations govern the conduct of doctors, and indeed the possession of a corporate ethics could be regarded as one of the essential marks of a profession. The publication within 4 years of a second revised and enlarged edition of this Dictionary confirms the current interest in this controversial field. There is now an introduction containing erudite essays on the evolution of Medical Science and of Medical Ethics. They are written by the editors and link the concepts underlying the book to the succeeding reference format. Subjects are taken from A to W with 148 authors contributing. In some entries, such as 'Abortion', an additional editorial comment is provided. The book is intended for the layman as well as the doctor, thus many subjects such as 'General Practice' or 'Intensive Care Units' give basic facts on the speciality, followed by a discussion of the related moral issues. The principal ethical theories and traditions are explained and the main International Declarations on medical practice, experimentation, and the determination of death are recorded in detail. There is extensive cross-referencing, and useful bibliographies are provided on many topics. As a mine of immediate information and a detailed reference guide to further study this work is unrivalled. Since medical ethics reflect important issues which involve society as a whole, authoritative, dispassionate and clear information must be made widely available. This book will undoubtedly go far to promote this end and will usefully stimulate and inform discussion.

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Microbiology for Clinicians

This little book dedicated to Joan Stokes maintains the purposeful clinical tradition which she herself originated in her work and writings.

It is not, nor does it affect to be, a text book. Early chapters discuss the pathogenicity and the differences between colonization and infection. There follows a chapter on the bacteriology laboratory including succinct descriptions of the various bacteria, their classification and the mechanisms by which they cause disease in man. Viruses, fungi and parasites have a single chapter in which the clinical significance of isolation and serological investigations are discussed. Probably the best chapter is on the anti-bacterial drugs in which Grüneberg's particular interest is reflected. His opinions on antibiotic combinations, the use of bactericidal drugs and the discussion on prophylactic chemotherapy are well informed and balanced in their treatment.

Infections in general practice are discussed in a separate chapter with advice on how best the microbiology laboratory might be used in these cases and there are separate chapters on infections commonly met with in hospitals, the use of the laboratory in outbreaks of infection, and the control of infection in the community; the last includes a discussion on public health, the containment of infection, immunization, and health education.

The microbiological missionary zeal of Grüneberg becomes readily apparent in the didactic and perhaps even inflexible chapters on the control of infection in hospitals and the control of antibiotic resistance; these rewarding chapters lay down very practical guidelines and describe clearly effective measures for the control of both. These are areas of unavoidable clinical involvement of microbiologists who will be very familiar with the problems described and will benefit from some of the solutions advised. There is a final chapter which has an exciting and optimistic look into the future; that a note of pessimism creeps into this chapter is really due to Dr Grüneberg's unhappiness with the current control of antibiotic use and his fears that ill-judged and profligate use of valuable antibacterials will lead to less and less successful therapy in the future.