

novelty of approach is a welcome change from the system orientated approach of most text-books. Successive chapters discuss common presenting symptoms such as dyspnoea, dizziness or P.U.O. The underlying physiology is described, followed by the likely causes and the investigations necessary to elucidate the diagnosis. Each chapter ends with an illustrative case history, which is followed by a detailed discussion of the differential diagnosis, and finally the answer is given. Working out the various problems is not only a valuable educational exercise, but ensures that one's ego is cut down to size. The format and the production of the book is excellent. The chapters are short and digestible and can be read in isolation. I only picked out a single major error in that Fig. 8-2 B should have been labelled a ventilation and not a perfusion scan, but even this had some educational value in underlining the point that a normal ventilation scan together with an abnormal perfusion scan is suggestive of pulmonary embolism.

This is an exceptionally useful book, and it is not difficult to see why it has reached a 2nd edition. It does not purport to be a comprehensive text-book but rather is a useful text in the problem orientated approach to medicine. I will certainly recommend it to my junior staff with M.R.C.P. aspirations, and indeed to anyone dealing with patients as they present in clinical practice.

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Virus Infections. Modern Concepts and Status

Edited by LLOYD C. OLSON. Microbiology series Vol. 6. Pp. x 289, illustrated. Marcel Dekker, New York and Basel, 1982. Sw.Fr. 118.00.

Our viewpoint of viruses has changed considerably during the last 30 years, from that pioneering era when these invisible micro-organisms were mysterious elemental particles which invaded cells, killed them and were eventually eliminated. Nowadays, the host-virus inter-relationship is a fundamental interaction of 2 species of nucleic acid. The virus infection is a dynamic but controlled state of biochemical activity in which a foreign piece of nucleic acid parasitises a host cell's nucleic acid. Since the aim is survival and replication, a long-term relationship with the host may be anticipated. The biology of this equilibrium is now being studied by sophisticated techniques in cellular and molecular biology with the help of biophysics and electronic engineering.

This excellent monograph provides insight into the host-virus relationships at this academic level. This is not the book which a postgraduate would dip into for a last-minute survey of virology before a clinical examination. However, when the examinations are over and he wishes to stretch his mind, then this deeply studious and satisfying account will update him on dengue, hepatitis, RNA and DNA tumour viruses, unconventional viruses and the interferons.

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Notice

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Management of Medical Technologies and Health Care Practices: Development, Utilization, and Costs August 1 to 5, 1983.

Enrolment is suggested for health care managers and policy-makers faced with resource allocation decisions and the acquisition of medical technologies; biomedical scientists and engineers in academia and industry who are interested in the medical applications of their research; medical practitioners who would like to better understand current use of analytic tools such as cost/benefit analysis and decision analysis applied to health problems. The programme is under the chairmanship of Stan N. Finkelstein, MD, Associate Professor of Health Management at MIT. Other MIT faculties as well as faculty from Harvard Medical School, Tufts University School of Medicine, The State University of New York at Stony Brook, and the National Institutes of Health will be participating.

The Dynamics of Health Service Systems: Strategic Planning for Complex Health Organizations July 25 to 29, 1983.

This programme is intended primarily for responsible health care administrators, practitioners, and educators interested in pursuing new approaches to health system problems. This programme is under the direction of Professor Edward B. Roberts, David Sarnoff Professor of Management of Technology and chairman of the Health Management area at the MIT Sloan School. Other faculty participants will come from MIT, Tufts University School of Medicine, Michigan State University School of Medicine, Blue Cross, Hewlett-Packard, Digital Equipment Corporation, and Pugh-Roberts Association Inc.

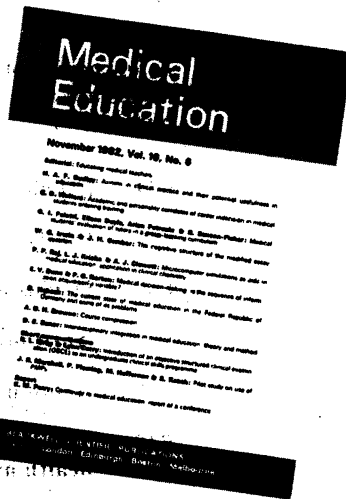
Continuing medical education credit for both programmes is being offered by the Office of Continuing Medical Education of Tufts University School of Medicine. A detailed description of the programme is available upon request from the Director of the Summer Session, Room E19-356, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139.

Medical Education

Published for the Association for the Study of Medical Education

Edited by Professor H.J. Walton

Medical Education provides an authoritative medium for the rapid publication of research papers and review articles of high quality in the field of medical education throughout the world. All topical issues of undergraduate, post-graduate and continuing education are covered, including selection of entrants, teaching methods, assessment technique, curriculum reform, and the training of medical teachers. The material is presented so that the problems, innovations and progress in different countries can be documented and transmitted to others in the field. The journal's function is to provide a link between the large number of bodies and individuals involved in medical education throughout the world, and it seeks to ensure that changes are made on the basis of informed decision.



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