

Respiratory Medicine, J.A.R. Friend and J.S. Legge. Pp 304. Heinemann Professional Publishing, London, 1988. £12.95.

This book comes in the series *Mainstream Medicine* and is written by two well-known clinicians in the field. According to the Preface, the book is written primarily for the MRCP candidate but should be of value and interest to senior clinical students. There are 20 chapters starting with Structure and Function of the Respiratory System, continuing to Pulmonary Function Testing, Pulmonary Radiology and then picking up the major respiratory disorders such as bronchial asthma and chronic bronchitis. Later it touches on Occupational Lung Disease and culminates with Tobacco Smoking and Respiratory Disease. In general, the topics are well covered within the 304 pages and much of the text is in the form of short, brisk paragraphs which are helpful when looking up a specific topic, although by the same token one may need to refer to a larger text for more detail.

There are numerous clear concise tables which are helpful together with a small number of references at the end of each chapter for further reading.

I think it is quite likely that, armed with this book, many would survive the gruelling MRCP examination; but whether it would have the detail for those probing further questions on the topic, which ease the passage if answered correctly, I have my doubts. Nevertheless I am delighted to have it on my bookshelf as a concise, well-planned and well-written book. I am sure it will prove popular.

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The Return of Blood to the Heart: Venous Pumps in Health and Disease, A.M.N. Gardner and R.H. Fox. Pp viii + 184, illustrated. John Libbey, London, Paris, 1989. £25.00. US\$49.00. FF295.

This British book is for enthusiasts especially those with an interest in venous pathology and physiology. The main aim is to discuss the physiology of venous pumps and prevention of venous stasis. The role of the plantar venous foot pump is discussed in health and disease. Initially the history of the circulation from Galen and Krogh is well summarized followed by a chapter on dynamic methods of assessing venous states, for example video plethysmography; dynamic venography may be replaced by doppler and duplex scanning in the future.

A fascinating chapter on the micro-circulation in which the concept of vasomotion (intermittent opening and closing of vessels) is discussed and involves logical reasons supporting the fallacy of capillary flow due to atheromatous pressure gradients. Subsequent chapters contain interesting observations of flow in the inferior vena cava and impaired nutrition of vein walls causing varicose veins.

The authors describe in careful detail their analysis of a pneumatic foot pump which simulates the foot venous pump on walking. It reduces oedema, compartment compression and may even keep bones healthy. There is some repetition in the chapters but only one photograph on foot dissection was difficult to interpret. On the whole the book is meticulously written and presented.

In conclusion this excellent absorbing book represents years of work by the author with up-to-date references. I thoroughly recommend this book to all interested in venous physiology, pathology and surgery.

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Books Received

Alzheimer's Disease: towards an understanding of the aetiology and pathogenesis, edited by D.C. Davies. Pp vii + 136, illustrated. John Libbey, London, Paris, 1989. £18 US\$35 FF215 hardback.

Annual Review of Genetics. Volume 23, edited by Allan Campbell, Bruce S. Baker & Ira Herskowitz. Pp xii & 679, illustrated. Annual Reviews Inc., California, USA, 1989. Hardback \$38.00.

Ear, Nose and Throat Disease, Kevin P. Gibbin and Partick Bradley. Pp 156. Springer-Verlag, London, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, etc, 1989. DM35.00 softback.

How To Do It: 3. Pp x + 203, illustrated. British Medical Journal, London, 1990. £6.95 abroad £9 incl airmail p&p.

MRCGP, Peter Elliott, Pp.190. Springer-Verlag, London, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, etc. 1989. Softcover DM30.00.

Health, Peter Aggleton. Pp ix + 159, illustrated. Routledge, London, 1990. Paperback £4.99.

On Stress Disease and Evolution, Graham W. Boyd. Pp. iv + 246. University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia, 1989. A\$29.95 paperback.

Psoriasis and Eczema, edited by Lionel Fry. Pp. vi + 202, illustrated. Clinical Press, Bristol, 1989. £15.00 paperback.

Ward Rounds for Medical Students-Clinical Medicine, Gerald Sandler. Pp. x + 278, illustrated. Chapman and Hall Medical, London, New York, 1990. £15.95.