

**Manual of Obstetrics: Diagnosis and Therapy**, edited by Kenneth R. Niswander & Arthur T. Evans, Pp. xiii + 542, illustrated. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Toronto, London, 1991. £13.95, spiralbound.

It is no easy task to compress information about a major subject into a handbook which is small enough to fit into the pocket of a white coat. Professors Niswander and Evans have managed to achieve this task excellently. They and their publishers have also been able to include sufficient diagrams and illustrations to stop this little book from being boring, and there is the wealth of references that one expects from a North American production.

The manual is divided into four sections. These deal with pregnancy (in 20 chapters), the fetus (in six chapters), labor (*sic*) and delivery (in six chapters), and the newborn (in five chapters). There is a fairly comprehensive index, although there was no reference to cord prolapse – which is dealt with in the text on page 451.

This book is aimed primarily at students and house officers. To ensure that the subject matter was appropriate for this readership, the unusual decision was taken to invite senior house officers and young attending physicians to write some of the chapters – although only seven of the 30 contributors are not professors. This strategy has resulted in a most useful manual. Its usefulness is enhanced by its being spiralbound. It is highly recommended.

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**Accidents and Emergencies**, 2nd Edition, edited by N.G. Kirby. Pp. xvi + 443, illustrated. Oxford University Press, New York, Oxford, 1991. £14.95, paperback.

This little book gives excellent up to date advice on all common medical and surgical emergencies likely to be encountered. It gives practical hints on how to deal with those small problems which inevitably arise when a senior opinion is unavailable. The format of succinct descriptions together with useful line diagrams makes the book readable and informative.

Appropriate management and disposal of conditions, often a cause of great concern to the junior doctor working in accident and emergency (A&E), is clear and precise. The inclusion of algorithms for the management of chest pain, multiple injuries and the Mental Health Act, to name three, give a clear indication of how to deal with some difficult aspects of emergency medicine. The sections concerned with the management of patients suffering from multiple injuries and poisoning are particularly informative. The section on medico-legal aspects highlights, in a readable fashion, an increasingly important aspect of medicine.

This book is recommended as essential reading for all doctors involved in the management of acutely ill and injured patients, not only those working specifically in the accident and emergency department. Ideally it should be read before dealing with emergencies but its small size allows it to fit comfortably into a white coat for a rapid source of reference.

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## Erratum

Re: A randomized trial of 1 versus 3 doses of Augmentin as wound prophylaxis in at-risk abdominal surgery. T. Bates, J.V. Roberts, K. Smith and K.A. German. *Postgrad Med J* 1992, **68**: 811–816.

The Editorial Office apologises for an error in the doses of the constituents of Augmentin used. The correct dose of amoxycillin and clavulanic acid in Augmentin intravenous (Co-amoxiclav) is 1 g and 200 mg respectively/ampoule.