

also when and how to use drug therapy in the management of the disease in question. The tables and diagrams are excellent and the proofreading has been thorough.

Overall, the book succeeds in presenting in a single volume much that is new and valuable in the field of therapeutics. Specialists will learn little from chapters pertinent to their specialty, but trainees, generalists in hospital and general practitioners should buy this book, read it, and then review their prescribing habits. They and their patients could benefit greatly.

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ABC of Alcohol, 3rd Edition, edited by A. Paton. Pp. 32, illustrated. BMJ, London, 1994. Paperback £7.95.

It is encouraging to note that this publication is now in its third edition, demonstrating the continuing need to be constantly reminded of the fact that alcohol misuse

impinges on all fields of medical practice, and without question forms part of the workload for all health professionals and social workers.

In the preface Alex Paton states that the purpose of the *ABC of Alcohol* is to 'widen horizons so as to provide a core of knowledge that will give practitioners the confidence to deal successfully with the great majority of people who misuse alcohol'. This task has been admirably achieved with more current data, clear succinct diagrams and placing the issue in the appropriate context with an obvious emphasis in the realms of primary health care, which undoubtedly should be the ideal setting for detection management, particularly of heavy drinkers.

The paperback provides a useful whistle-stop tour through the various aspects relating to alcohol-related problems and certainly deserves a place in a general practice library.

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