
BOOK REVIEWS

The reviewers have been asked to rate these books in terms of four items: readability, how up to date they are, accuracy and reliability, and value for money, using simple four point scales. From their opinions we have derived an overall "star" rating: * = poor, ** = reasonable, *** = good, **** = excellent.

Epidemiology of Work Related Diseases. 2nd Ed. Edited by Corbett McDonald. (Pp 556; £65.00.) BMJ Books, 2000. ISBN 0-7279-1432-4.****

This small volume at first glance appears too slight to adequately cover the subject of its title. However, appearances are deceptive and this well bound and printed book contains over 550 pages of interesting and distilled information. Anyone confronted by a medical problem that could have a work related dimension would do well to consult it.

Originally published in 1995, this updated version reflects modern society and industry. The newly emerging problems of work stress, infertility and pregnancy hazards, electromagnetic radiation, and possible molecular damage caused by pollution are described.

Inevitably there is less emphasis on the old British industries of coal mining and steel manufacturing that once dominated occupational health publications. Despite this there is excellent coverage of all dust related diseases including those from man made mineral fibres and asbestos, which will continue to be clinically important over the next half century.

Over 150 pages are devoted to the methodology of environmental health research and these deal with statistical aspects in a way comprehensible to the non-mathematical reader.

All of the main chapters are well referenced and their authors, who are drawn from 10 different countries, are experts in their own fields.

Overall it is an excellent book both for the occupational epidemiologist and anyone with an interest in occupational health.

H F THOMAS

General Practitioner, Eastbourne, UK

Extended Matching Questions for the MRCS. By A Auplish and M K Hossain-Ibrahim. (Pp 228; £22.50.) Greenwich Medical Media, 2001. ISBN 1-841-1000-625.****

Extended matching questions now form roughly one third of the new MRCS examination. This revision book follows the STEP course closely with each chapter representing one of the 10 modules. The first five chapters deal with core modules and the last five with system modules. The authors have recently passed the MRCS examination and have based the questions in this book on the format and content of questions that they and their peers have recently met in the examination. Although the authors have undoubtedly collected together an excellent selection of extended matching questions, the real strength of the book lies in the answer sections. These sections clearly explain the rationale behind the correct answer and, importantly, discuss other relevant issues. The detailed discussion in the answers sections makes this book particularly useful for revision and many of the answers contain useful line drawings and tables.

I highly recommend this book for potential MRCS candidates, not only because the format and content of the extended matching questions is similar to that which they will face in the examination, but also because the answers section of this book contains information that is sometimes difficult to find from other sources.

N J M LONDON

Department of Surgery, Leicester Royal Infirmary,
Leicester, UK

DIARY

Warwick University Short Courses

5-6 November 2001, An Introduction to Bioinformatics: A Practical Approach. This is a two day course for those wishing to gain a practical understanding of the applications of bioinformatics.

10-13 December 2001, Techniques and Applications of Molecular Biology: A Course for Medical Practitioners. This a four day residential course for those in the medical profession wishing to improve their understanding of the principles and applications of genetic engineering techniques.

Further information: Dr Charlotte Moonan, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK (tel: +44 (0)24 7652 3540, fax: +44 (0)24 7652 3701, email: Charlotte.Moonan@warwick.ac.uk).

Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine

Centre for Health Informatics & Multiprofessional Education, Royal Free & University College Medical School

Two one day conferences for doctors new to risk management: 4 December 2001, Clinical Risk Management and 21 February 2002, Clinical Governance.

- Leadership for improvement
- Learning from adverse events
- How to reduce the blame culture
- Improving patient safety

Commonwealth Conference & Events Centre, Kensington High Street, London.

For more information or to book a place, contact Kate Stephens, CHIME, 4th Floor Holborn Union Building, Archway Campus, Highgate Hill, London N19 3UA, UK (tel: +44 (0)20 7288 3134, email: k.stephens@chime.ucl.ac.uk).