

own and lend to doctors working on their teams for a short time. Moreover, it will be very useful as I prepare my lecture to postgraduate nurses on the topic of children with disabilities. I said it was apposite, didn't I?

Phillipa Clark

Paediatrics at a glance

Edited by Lawrence Miall, Mary Rudolf, Malcolm Levene. Published by Blackwell, Oxford, 2007, £18.99 (paperback), pp 152. ISBN 10 1-4051-4845-4



It is a daunting prospect to learn paediatrics at undergraduate level. With increasing time constraints, students can now find themselves having to learn about the myriad of paediatric conditions in just 6 weeks. It is therefore of utmost importance for text-

books to be written in a clear and concise manner. This is something that the authors obviously had in mind when writing the excellent second edition of *Paediatrics at a glance*.

I should probably admit now that I was already a fan of the first edition. In fact, having left medical school just over a year ago, it seems very recently that I was desperately attempting to memorise its contents! It, along with the whole "At a glance" series, was an invaluable learning aid for both myself and countless numbers of my peers.

Some of you may not be familiar with the "At a glance" series. It is an expanding family of books aimed largely at undergraduate students with subjects as diverse as medical pharmacology and psychiatry. The aim of each volume in the series is to provide a thorough yet succinct guide to a subject with a set page design of simple schematic diagrams and lists followed by explanatory text.

The first edition was comprised of sections on evaluation of the child, child development, community paediatrics, acute problems, common symptoms, surveillance, the neonate, chronic illness and disability. Although the bulk of the information contained in the first edition has been carried over to the second, there are considerable differences in both substance and style.

The first major and most noticeable change is the addition of colour. It freshens up the book, adds impact to the different sections and will probably help those who favour a visual learning approach. The order has also changed, making it a more logical read with the sections organised largely by age. It has also added the current vogue topics of allergy and obesity along with a useful section on the collapsed child. Particularly useful are the restructured areas on "common problems in childhood". This allows the evolving clinician to learn paediatrics as their patients will eventually present. The reader is able to learn about the

causes and treatment of a wide range of common complaints such as vomiting, diarrhoea or fever without looking up the many causative diseases independently.

The book is primarily designed for medical students, doctors at the start of postgraduate training and allied health professionals with an interest in paediatrics. There is perhaps one more use for this text. As I move through my training from constant learner to very occasional teacher, it becomes apparent that the book can be used as the basis for excellent interactive teaching sessions.

In my opinion, it is best used as a supplementary guide to a larger core textbook, which can be referred to when the information provided is a little brief. However, cramming all the core paediatric presentations, acute and chronic conditions into just 150 pages and doing it such in such style is no mean feat. I would not hesitate to recommend this book to medical students, allied health professionals or junior doctors needing to brush up on their paediatric knowledge.

David James

Oxford specialist handbook in paediatric neurology

Edited by Rob Forsyth, Richard Newton. Published by Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2007, £34.95 (paperback), pp 448. ISBN 0-19-856939-4

Those saviours of junior doctors have come up with another handy pocket-sized book (a handbag might be less cumbersome, ladies!). The makers of the "cheese and onion" (*Oxford handbook of clinical medicine*) and "ready salted" (*Oxford handbook of clinical surgery*) volumes have achieved the awesome task of condensing the super brainy neurologists' knowledge into 546 pages (it has taken 27 years since the medical handbook, but we'll accept this as a reflection of the complexity of the subject rather than its lack of importance in the eyes of the publishers). We're running out of crisp flavours now, so I suggest the "club med" as a suitable nickname (as the colours on the front cover bring to mind the sun, the sea and the sky). The book is small enough to sneakily read at the back of the x ray meeting and then wow the consultants with your knowledge of MERFF. The neuroanatomy pictures will also make you seem less of a fool when everyone is talking about the basal ganglia and you are helplessly wondering where you are supposed to be looking (shame you fell asleep when the neuroradiologist was giving the tutorial on imaging – they will insist on dimming the lights though). Even if all you do is read the first eight pages of abbreviations after the index, you will have managed to translate the neurology doublespeak and realise that MNGIE written in the notes is not casting aspersions on the patient's generosity. There are really useful sections on investigations to avoid having to ask (and embarrass your registrar who doesn't actually know!) what conditions that long list of investigations is actually looking for. The neurology examination

would be really useful for the MRCPCH part 2 as well as helping the neurology trainee to brush up on their technique (I defy any non-neurologist to remember the dermatomes more than 6 weeks after their exam!). The book then focuses on specific presenting complaints and their differential diagnoses and investigation. This is followed by specific conditions including an excellent section on epilepsy. For the registrar doing consultations in the tertiary setting, the book provides a double whammy giving background information on the conditions commonly referred (eg, HSP or SLE) plus the neurological complications to consider. The emergency section is particularly useful with easy to find pages highlighted in blue and clear treatment flow charts and drug doses for conditions such as status epilepticus or dystonicus. Finally, a chapter on medicines with doses, starting regimes, monitoring and side effects completes this handy book.

The book cover states that it is aimed at "general paediatricians, paediatric neurologists, neurodevelopmental paediatricians and those in training as well as specialist nurses". It is unusual for a book to be able to appeal to both amateur and expert, but I think this book manages to pull it off. At £34.95 it will not break the bank (or the bookshelf) of the general consultant or community paediatrician who wants a quick ready reference to translate the letters from the neurologists or manage the child with epilepsy. Likewise, the consultant neurologist who has forgotten the gene for Rett syndrome will find it concise but crammed full of facts. Of course though, consultant neurologists are too clever to forget anything! Handy for reading on the train, however, and if you get bored you can look at the cover and plan your next holiday. Who knows, in years to come it may be incorporated into some neuropsychometric test "What does this book remind you of?". The one criticism of the book is perhaps the limited information on developmental problems and the developmental exam. But perhaps this is a book in itself – choose the colours carefully though lads, we're running out of names!

Rosemary Belderbos

CORRECTIONS

Kakourou Talia, Garoufi Anastasia, Nikolaidou Polyxeni, *et al.* Kearns Sayre syndrome initially presenting as hypomelanosis of Ito (*Arch Dis Child* 1999;**81**:278). The third author of this paper was incorrectly published as Polyxeni N; it should be Nicolaidou P.

doi: 10.1136/adc.2006.105577corr1

S H Dijkstra, A van Beek, J W Janssen, *et al.* High prevalence of vitamin D deficiency in newborn infants of high-risk mothers. *Arch Dis Child* 2007;**92**:750–3. The position of the p Value (0.001) in the last column of table 1 is listed in the row titled "Winter, n (%)" and should have been listed in the row titled "Vitamin D deficient, n (%)". We apologise for this error.