
The best thing the old General Nursing Council did was to put a question in the final nursing examinations about haemophilia. Since then, nurses regularly attend the Haemophilia Centre for training in hospital and home care, and the whole hospital seems more aware of the disease and its problems. Dr Jones' book is written for the haemophiliac and his family, and describes all they need to know and how to cope. It should similarly raise awareness about the disease for the layman. This is the third edition. It is comprehensive and comprehensible. The details are written in terms which all can understand and the diagrams are clear and simple. The popularity of earlier editions can be judged by the fact they have been published in six other languages. Over the years I have forgotten how many copies my department has bought to lend to patients, but they are numerous. Once they go, they rarely come back.

How does this differ from earlier editions? The book is now printed with more words to the page, which is informative but slightly larger. A new first chapter reassures the parents of a newly diagnosed child. The statement that 'he has as much chance of being captain of one of his country's sports teams as his father' may be taken two ways. Other new chapters include information on side effects of treatment such as liver disease and infection, HIV and AIDS, and on haemophilia care in developing countries. Dr Jones includes vaccination schedules including hepatitis B. There are many new diagrams and increased information about contraception, factors VIII and IX, von Willebrand's disease, and anticoagulant therapy. Another innovation is the inclusion of photographs of haemophiliac boys enjoying a range of physical activities, despite some obviously bad knees and legs. These are all improvements.

My own experience tells me that the earlier editions served their purpose well, and I have no doubt that this edition will do the same. Its message, as the author states, is 'life first, haemophilia second'. However, in his attempt to reduce the anxieties of parents newly faced with a diagnosis of haemophilia, the author plays down the severity of the disease. For many patients, even with first class management, the disease presents major problems for their enjoyment of life, the ability to work and play, and their prospects. Even so, all families of a child with haemophilia should read and study it. If they do, they will know more about the disease than their paediatricians.

This Jensen. Over the last hundred years, and I can only advise that paediatricians should read it too, and make it compulsory reading for nurses, physiotherapists, teachers, and others who may deal with haemophiliacs.

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Inoculation against smallpox appears to have been first used in the 6th century BC by the Chinese, who implanted bamboo splinters dipped in purulent material into the nasal mucosa of uninfected individuals. The protective effect of cowpox against natural smallpox infection was folk wisdom for many generations before the era of immunisation. The second edition of this book is considerably larger than the first and includes much new material. The editors have been able to reflect the tremendous improvements in the last hundred years immunisation has been an even larger contributor to the health of individuals and nations. With the development of gene manipulation by molecular biology, and the ability to produce purified antibody by in vitro techniques, its day is only just dawning.

This book then appears at a watershed in the development of immunisation, and provides a bridge linking scientific and clinical knowledge on the one hand, with everyday clinical practice on the other. It has been rapidly and professionally put together by the British Paediatric Association Standing Committee on Immunisation and Vaccination.

The book is directed towards all concerned in paediatric primary care, junior hospital staff, paramedical staff, and parents, and is divided into sections. The first of these discusses the general diagnosis and management of common infections in childhood from a problem orientated viewpoint, for example, the child with a rash and the child with diarrhoea and vomiting. The second section provides short summaries of specific childhood infections, with particular detail of recently recognised conditions such as AIDS and Kawasaki disease.

This is followed by a short section on the collection of specimens for laboratory diagnosis and a long and comprehensive section on immunisation, including a very helpful discussion on practical problems. Should you immunise a child with diarrhoea or a chest cough when they come to clinic? What about the baby who is said to have had whooping cough or measles? What is the relevance of a history of fits or febrile convulsions?

The book concludes with detailed advice on travelling abroad with a child, a series of useful appendices, and a bibliography for further reading.

This second edition has been expanded and brought up to date and is beautifully laid out, simple, straightforward, and authoritative. Demanding a place in every GP's surgery, accident and emergency unit, and in every general paediatric ward in the country, it is a model of clarity and accuracy. The new edition is recommended for all parents whose child is at all at risk with all medical texts were half as good as this.

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My personal paediatric library is kept up to date by the editors of the Archives supplying me with excellent books, ostensibly for review. I'm beginning to wonder though, is this just kinder.addRowBack to the editors heard something that I haven't?

This latest splendid edition to my bookshelf is based on the most recent paediatric conference held by the Royal College of Physicians. A number of distinguished subspecialists review changes in practice over the last five years, and speculate on how these will influence paediatrics in the next decade.

The book is divided into two sections: one on infection and the other on immunology. Those interested in the field of immunology will be delighted. Infection control, immunisation and serology are dealt with in great depth along with many other aspects of infection control.

The chapter on epilepsy illustrates the circle fully turned with the use of magnetic resonance imaging to detect small focal lesions in the temporal lobes, with the subsequent surgical removal. A useful résumé of risk versus benefit of drug treatment follows.

Opinions are revision on what were sometimes over-investigations. Thus under 'imaging of the urinary tract,' cystography is not even mentioned, and the ESPGAN criteria of three jejunal biopsies for the diagnosis of coeliac disease is discussed.

The philosophy of changes in treatment is epitomised by the chapter on paediatric oncology headed 'towards cure at least cost'. For many malignancies current research is aimed at identifying poor prognostic groups for more intensive treatment while reducing treatment for cases with a good outlook.

Current new treatments, such as pancreatic transplantation, and somatic gene therapy are discussed with their attendant difficulties, which surely will be overcome in the next 10 years. The book concludes with a thoughtful