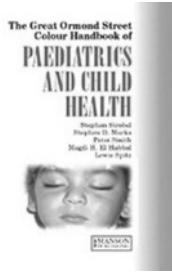


The Great Ormond Street colour handbook of paediatrics and child health

Edited by Stephan Strobel, Stephen D Marks, Peter K Smith, Magdi H El Habbal, Lewis Spitz. Published by Manson Publishing, London, 2007, pp 640, £49.95 (paperback). ISBN 1-874545-27-8



NOW, what I want is, Facts. Teach these boys and girls nothing but Facts. Facts alone are wanted in life. Plant nothing else, and root out everything else. You can only form the minds of

reasoning animals upon Facts: nothing else will ever be of any service to them. This is the principle on which I bring up my own children, and this is the principle on which I bring up these children. Stick to Facts, sir! (*Charles Dickens, Hard Times*)

Charles Dickens was not only a neighbour of Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) but also one of its first celebrity supporters and a friend of Dr Charles West, the inspiration behind the hospital. Dickens publicised GOSH in his popular *Household words* magazine. If only he could see how the hospital he so publicly supported has produced a supreme yet compact textbook and atlas, which has provided these "Facts" in such a digestible way.

The book is unique in combining both reference text and over 1100 colour illustrations and photographs; as the foreword claims – a seemingly unrivalled collection. This beautiful production is largely testimony to the vast wealth of expertise and accumulated experience behind the book. Seventy three authors, mostly either previous trainees or consultants at GOSH, have collaborated together to encompass an expanse of medical and surgical specialties.

Each specialty chapter is presented in the familiar "medical sieve" format of incidence, aetiology, presentation, diagnosis, treatment, etc. Text is clear and concise and is accompanied by high definition photographs, radiological scans, graphs and diagnostic images as well as text box summaries. There is a comprehensive reference section at the end of each chapter, some referencing up to 21 papers, journals and texts. Each reference section is subdivided into categories, making them easy to find within each specialty. The book has a detailed 12-page index to aid cross-referencing.

The overwhelming aspect of this book is the broad and all-encompassing approach to paediatrics. Chapters concerning speech and language therapy, oral and dental surgery, otorhinolaryngology and neonatal paediatric surgery are included as well as traditional areas. One chapter of note was that covering

child protection. It included a practical guide on immediate and longer-term management of child abuse with Department of Health guidelines and relevant website list referencing.

Above all, this book's cover will never have to be dusted off; it will appeal to students in training, doctors in practice and the multi-disciplinary allied professionals. Yet, even though there is broad perspective, important detail is never sacrificed, making it useful in daily clinical practice and as a reference. Unlike some books, it not only shows common and rare disorders but also normal variants, highly reassuring to the paediatrician and useful to relay to worried parents.

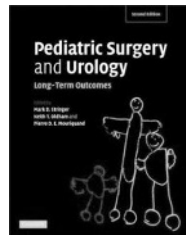
Perhaps Dickens did predict that the hospital he supported to such a degree would produce such an encyclopaedic, all-encompassing coffer of paediatric knowledge, appealing to so many professionals.

It has always been my opinion since I first possessed such a thing as an opinion, that the man who knows only one subject is next tiresome to the man who knows no subject. Therefore, in the course of my life I have taught myself whatever I could, and although I am not an educated man, I am able, I am thankful to say, to have an intelligent interest in most things. (*Charles Dickens, Wreck of the Golden Mary*)

Gita Modgil, Radha Modgil

Paediatric surgery and urology. Long-term outcomes, 2nd edition

Edited by Mark D Stringer, Keith T Oldham, Pierre DE Mouriquand. Published by Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2006, pp 1096, £156.75 (hardback). ISBN 10: 0-52-183902-5



Paediatric surgery and urology is an impressive text providing a unique and comprehensive view of the entire spectrum of surgical and urological conditions found in neonatal and paediatric patients. It differs from other paediatric/urological reference books as it does not solely concern

itself with the usual disease epidemiology, clinical features, diagnosis and management but focuses on long-term outcomes.

The contents of the book's 1096 pages are anatomically and systematically ordered in nine parts and follow an opening section, which essentially provides a backdrop for the succeeding content. The opening chapters emphasise the importance of approaching paediatric surgery or indeed any area of medicine from a "long-term outcome" perspective. This is achieved by outlining not only the principles of such an approach but also the historical context from which it originates. The

clinical chapters which make up the remainder of the book explore, at first, conditions by anatomical region, which is followed by subjects such as transplantation and oncology.

While exploring the book, I focused on chapters of interest which may be encountered in my regular practice, for example necrotising enterocolitis (NEC) as a neonatology trainee. This chapter was well constructed and initially followed a predictable course and was annotated with purposefully positioned tables, x rays and summary lists. Following a detailed discourse on clinical incidence, diagnosis and treatment, the discussion of the potential short- and long-term outcomes with a summary and review of the contemporary literature followed. This chapter provided comprehensive detail on the pitfalls of the long-term management of NEC and provided evidence-based analysis of potential therapy. Although this example reflects only one chapter, the template used provides the basis for the remainder of the book and is matched in its quality.

Each section is contributed by a broad range of experts in their respected fields and from numerous world renowned centres. The authors are not exclusively from a surgical background, thus broadening the appeal of this book. Throughout the text, concurrent literature has also been extensively cross-referenced providing an excellent evidence base, which will provide confidence to the reader.

This book's purpose, as the preface outlines, is "to bring together and analyze what we currently know about the long-term effects of conditions and operative procedures in paediatric surgery and urology". It is surprising to discover a surgical textbook which may find its way onto the shelves of anyone who is involved in managing neonates, infants or children with the long-term effects of surgical intervention. It is even more rare to find a book which should be an essential reference for those practising in such a potentially broad field, from neonatologists to paediatric/adult physicians, surgeons and urologists. This book should provide the cornerstone of practice in these fields.

Jonathan W Davis

CORRECTIONS

Owen R, Sammons H M. *Arch Dis Child* 2007;**92**:278. More blood tests in paracetamol overdose? This letter was mistakenly linked to an unrelated Authors' response by K A Neville, C F Verge, A R Rosenberg, M W O'Meara, J L Walker, resulting in incorrect authorship. The only authors of the letter *More blood tests in paracetamol overdose?* are R Owen and H M Sammons. We apologise for this error.

doi: 10.1136/adc.2006.107078corr1

M P McMonagle and M T Corbally. An unusual case of anaemia and dyspnoea (*Arch Dis Child* 2007;**92**:223). The affiliation of the authors of this paper is Dublin, Ireland, and not the UK as published.