
My main criticism is that the author is rather uncritical, and the discussions are too diffuse. This is particularly true in the chapter, The Aetiology of Atopic Dermatitis. Some specific comments are:

The author credits Wise and Sulzberger for introducing the term “atopic dermatitis.” Actually, Abraham Walzer, a Brooklyn dermatologist, introduced the term “atopic eczema” in 1929.

The author apparently believes that many hand eczemas are residuals of atopic dermatitis. This is not the reviewer's opinion, and certainly the argument the author advances, namely, “Many cases of hand eczemas have a course which is typical of atopic dermatitis, indicating that in some this is the correct diagnosis,” is to me a totally invalid argument. Further, in the reviewer's opinion, it is important to distinguish between ordinary eczema (meaning by that a contact eczema) and atopic dermatitis, because in the case of the contact dermatitis an exogenous cause of some kind is required to produce the lesions; this is not so in the case of atopic dermatitis.

The author also believes that there is a seborrheic dermatitis of infants which is difficult to distinguish from atopic dermatitis. I realize that this is a widely held view, but in my opinion it is fallacious.

The author states, “It has been estimated that about 50 percent of patients with localized anogenital pruritus have adult phase atopic dermatitis (Rothman and Shapiro, 1957), despite the less frequent finding of lichenification in this site.” This kind of statement is illustrative of the non-critical quality of the book. The author obviously is taking the statement of the two investigators named, but to me there is no evidence whatsoever to support such an assertion.

Despite the caveats, the book is a handy reference for those who wish information with respect to investigative aspects of atopic dermatitis. It is not a book for the practitioner.

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In recent years the most important advances in care of patients with peripheral vascular disease have involved the development of effective safe methods for radiographic diagnosis and surgical treatment, but improvements in nonoperative management have not kept pace. Nonetheless, a familiarity with disorders of the peripheral circulation is as important to the physician as to the surgeon, for it is the former who will in most instances initially face the problem of differential diagnosis, begin treatment, and ultimately decide when consultation with a surgeon is in order. This useful book, now in its second edition, is directed primarily to the family physician, the neurologist, the dermatologist, and to others not specialists in vascular surgery. In his attempt to provide a comprehensive clinical guide to this audience, the author has been eminently successful. The work is readable and full of practical pearls, and it combines the fruits of a vast personal experience with a well-balanced distillation of the important literature. Particularly praiseworthy are the presentations of vasospastic and functional vascular disorders as well as the introduction to vascular surgery and its role in the care of specific peripheral circulatory states. Many other subjects are handled nicely also. The illustrations are numerous and generally well chosen and well reproduced.

In a work of this size it is inevitable that there will be some areas of disagreement. The disputed points are few and relatively minor. For the most part, controversial issues are fairly presented, although the author is sometimes guilty of excessive fence-sitting in an effort to give voice to both sides of an issue. For example, after a persuasive caution about the shortcomings of vasodilator drugs in the management of chronic peripheral arterial disease, the author recommends their use in the management of ischemic leg ulcers. His uncritical advocacy of the use of pancreatic extracts in athrosclerosis is also to be viewed with reserve. The bibliography is not as up-to-date as would be wished: the most recent references cited were published in 1972. The volume is expensive at $47.50.

Despite these quibbles, the work can be highly recommended as a valuable addition to the physician’s library.

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The Eye and Systemic Disease represents the proceedings of a symposium held at the University of Iowa in 1974. It included 18 of the world’s leading internists, ophthalmologists, and dermatologists discussing 10 important medical areas. Each systemic area is first given a pathophysiologi-