

sician, the internist, the nurse clinician, or the paramedical professional assistant in learning the essential techniques used in the practice of dermatology. Included are the details of identification of mycelia in materials from the skin and hair; the use of the Wood's light in the recognition of fluorescence of the hair; the technique for identification of mites; and the Tzanck smear which is important for the diagnosis of viral infections such as herpes simplex, herpes zoster, and varicella. Two physical methods include diascopy for the identification of translucence of a nodular lesion, which is a method for identifying granulomas, and a brief discussion of the Auspitz sign, which is present in psoriasis but is really quite nonspecific. In the discussion of punch biopsy, which was by and large a clear presentation, the use of Monsel's solution was suggested; this is less satisfactory than Gelfoam, not only because the latter is more effective but also because long-lasting tattoos can occasionally result from Monsel's solution.

In general, the photography is of high quality; however, the scabetic burrow is not clearly shown and the translucency of the granuloma does not show up at all well. It is unfortunate that the use of the Wood's light for identification of fluorescence of the urine in porphyria cutanea tarda and erythropoietic porphyria were not included; in addition, the use of the Wood's light in the identification of melanin pigmentary disorders was not discussed. This technique is especially important for hypomelanotic macules which are so important in neurology and medicine for detection of systemic diseases such as tuberous sclerosis.

Despite these omissions this is an excellent production in every respect, with clear diction, a good choice of words, and a distinct sense of the student's needs always uppermost in the presentation. This teaching aid will be especially valuable for primary-care physicians and for nurse practitioners.

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Atopic Dermatitis (A Brief Course in Dermatology), Marion B. Sulzberger, M.D., and Rudolf Baer, M.D. The Institute for Dermatologic Communication and Education, San Francisco.

This audiovisual self-study program is an extremely well organized sound/slide sequence which deals with atopic dermatitis primarily from the morphologic point of view. Nomenclature, differential diagnosis, incidence, and complications of the disease are also presented. The intended audience is not identified for us, but one could surmise from the material presented that it was

not intended for dermatologists or residents in dermatology. The content appears to be most appropriate as a primer for medical students and allied health professionals unfamiliar with the basic morphology of atopic dermatitis.

The program could have been enhanced for more widespread applicability had there been included some histologic description of the eczemas and a description of the role of T-cell dysfunction in the viral and fungal complications. There was perhaps too much stress (for today's audience) on the dangers of vaccinia, the use of occlusive dressings (which few of my atopic dermatitis patients seem to tolerate), and controlling allergenic factors. Surprisingly, tar was not mentioned as a reasonable therapeutic modality, but moving to a temperate climate was.

In spite of the limited scope of the program, Drs. Sulzberger and Baer lucidly expose their views in 25 min—something few lecturers can achieve. The program should be of value to medical students who are being introduced to dermatology and to other allied health professionals unfamiliar with the various basic morphologic concepts. It is extremely well paced. The length and scope of the program are entirely appropriate to the content and the media suited to the purpose. Visual and sound qualities are excellent.

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Allergic Contact Dermatitis: Examples and Approaches (A Brief Course in Dermatology), Ernst Epstein, M.D., Howard Maibach, M.D., and Marion Sulzberger, M.D. The Institute for Dermatologic Communication and Education, San Francisco.

Few authors of medical books and monographs will be able to deny that they write primarily for their own satisfaction rather than for that of their readers. The same is probably true of film producers and playwrights. Whether this is equally true of the producers of audiovisual aids is not so certain. Most of the latter are produced, like reviews, at the request of a general editor.

Perhaps more than any other educational products such audiovisual aids must be tailored to a specific audience and it is not easy to satisfy more than one group—specialists, undergraduates, family doctors, residents, and so on. And these groups' needs will often vary enormously according to their educational and linguistic background. There are special problems for the authors. The material is literally magnified. Hence, any factual or other errors are also magnified. And it is not easy to present controversial viewpoints. They need to be fairly didactic. The meaning and