

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Manual of Dermatologic Therapeutics with Essential of Diagnosis** (Third edition). Kenneth A. Arndt, M.D. Little, Brown and Company (Inc), Boston, 1983 (347 pp, \$15.95)

In the third edition of the *Manual of Dermatologic Therapeutics*, Dr. Arndt has once again set the standard for this type of publication. Despite the wide success of the first two editions, he has substantially revised and expanded the third edition to include current concepts on pathophysiology, diagnosis, and therapy.

The *Manual* is divided into three major sections. In the first, "Common dermatologic diseases: diagnosis and therapy," most of the dermatologic entities dealt with in the office setting are addressed. Each disease entity or group is introduced by a brief discussion of the pathophysiology; this is followed by sections describing symptoms (subjective data), signs (objective data), assessment, and therapy. The therapies offered cover a wide range of options, and in general the variations are well chosen to give the practitioner rational modes of action appropriate to the degree of disease activity. Finally, each section has a short list of references to the relevant literature.

The second major section of the *Manual* is "Procedures and techniques." Here, Dr. Arndt has dealt with diagnostic procedures such as skin biopsy (punch, shave, excisional), patch testing, KOH preparations, fungal cultures, cytology, and Wood's lamp examination, as well as with therapeutic modalities such as curettage and electrodesiccation, cryotherapy, and ultraviolet radiation therapy, including PUVA. Each of these sections, although brief, is well-written and packed with practical information.

One of the nicest aspects of this manual is the attention given to providing a rationale for any given therapy. This is especially evident in the final section entitled, "Treatment principles and formulary." In addition to providing the usual information, the formulary also gives approximate packaging sizes and costs for almost all of the agents, a feature that should be of great value in prescribing appropriate amounts of medication. One feature of the *Manual* that at first may seem to be troublesome is the necessity to refer frequently to the formulary; however, given the fact that space limitations would not permit the kind of repetition that would be necessary to list all of the drugs under each disease, this is a minor inconvenience.

This *Manual* is a must for all practitioners of dermatology. In addition, its straightforward approach should make it useful to physicians in other areas of medicine who require an occasional consultation on the care of patients with disorders of the skin.

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**Phototherapy and Photochemotherapy of Skin Disease.** Warwick L. Morison, M.D. Praeger Publishers, New York, 1983 (151 pp, \$28.95)

The introduction of photochemotherapy (PUVA) of psoriasis in 1974 has profoundly influenced therapeutic concepts in dermatology and has stimulated research in photomedicine. Today phototherapy and photochemotherapy play an important role in the treatment of a variety of skin diseases. Dr. Morison joined the Harvard group at the very beginning of the photomedicine age and he is, therefore, quite a competent author. The book is designed to provide a source of information about the fundamentals of phototherapy and photochemotherapy and to serve as an introduction into the practical use of ultraviolet rays in dermatological therapy.

As Dr. Morison states, the book is based on lectures delivered at a phototherapy course at Johns Hopkins University, but it is more than just a syllabus or a proceedings volume. The author's own input has helped to create a uniformly styled and comprehensive monograph. The book is divided into nine chapters. It starts with a historical excursion on the early use of sunlight with and without photosensitizers by ancient healers and subsequently outlines the basic principles of photobiology as far as it appears necessary for the understanding of the mechanisms of therapy. Chapters 3 to 5 are devoted to the main goal of the book: therapy of psoriasis and other diseases. Naturally psoriasis is the major indication, and the position as well as the practical

use of the different phototherapeutic means (PUVA, UVB, Goeckerman, and combination therapy) are discussed.

The PUVA section details the different approaches to therapy which have evolved in the United States and in Europe and informs readers about new developments including combination with retinoids, methotrexate, and other adjunctive agents. With regard to efficacy and perhaps to indications of each of the various regimens, the personal view of the author may not entirely satisfy all readers who have experience with phototherapy. However, this reflects only academic controversies and has no impact on the practical value of this chapter for the practitioner. In the chapter dealing with subjects other than psoriasis, the prophylactic treatment of photodermatosis is also included. In particular, the prevention of polymorphous light eruption appears to be an increasingly important issue.

Chapter 6 contains a careful review of potential long-term hazards of UVB and PUVA treatment. Dr. Morison presents a well-balanced overview of the current literature with special emphasis on the possible carcinogenicity of these treatment modalities.

Practical advice to the practitioner is detailed in chapter 7 which includes the description of radiation units, radiometers, dosimetry, and protection measures.

Chapters 8 and 9 cover nondermatological topics (e.g. phototherapy of newborn jaundice, hematoporphyrin photochemotherapy of tumors) and future aspects of the use of electromagnetic radiation in therapy.

This concise, well-written monograph is easy to read for those who are not familiar with photomedicine. It is indispensable for the practicing dermatologist and for dermatologists in training who wish to acquire firsthand information without being burdened with encyclopedic details.

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**Microbial Skin Disease: Its Epidemiology** (Current Topics in Infection Series). W.C. Noble. Edward Arnold, London, 1983 (135 pp, \$47.50)

Dr. Noble has contributed widely to our understanding of cutaneous bacterial ecology and provided fundamental contributions on the many factors involved in bacterial colonization and cutaneous infection.

In *Microbial Skin Disease: Its Epidemiology*, Dr. Noble, in typically terse British style, has concisely summarized an enormous amount of information on the microbiology of normal skin (nearly 400 references) and cutaneous infections in 110 short pages. The preface states that the aim is to bring together studies from a very wide range of areas that will be useful to nondermatologist infection control specialists. Dr. Noble has succeeded and this book should be a valuable reference monograph to any physician who is interested in cutaneous infection.

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**Vitiligo and Other Hypomelanoses of Hair and Skin.** Edited by Jean-Paul Ortonne, David B. Mosher, and Thomas B. Fitzpatrick. Topics in Dermatology, John A. Parrish, and Thomas B. Fitzpatrick (Series editors). Plenum Press, New York and London, 1983 (683 pp, \$79.50)

*Vitiligo and Other Hypomelanoses of Hair and Skin* is appropriately named. Vitiligo is the main feature. The book contains a scholarly monograph on vitiligo flanked by less extensive descriptions of other hypomelanoses. Vitiligo proper constitutes 181 of the book's 683 pages. The outstanding feature of the section is the encyclopedic attention to clinical detail. With a bibliography fleshed out with 743 citations, not much is left to the imagination. Associated phenomena, clinical patterns, and mode of onset, are carefully annotated.

The section on the pathogenesis of vitiligo is historically heartwarming. Lorincz' early contribution to the immunologic theory of vitiligo is noted. The major theories—immunologic, neurologic, and self-destruct—are examined, each found to be insufficient to account for the variegation of vitiligo. Hope is extended to the reader that if a one-