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HANDBOOK OF MEDICAL TREATMENT

by William Skach, Charles Daley, and Christopher Forsmark
Yearbook Medical Publishers

Anxious house staff seeking a pocket-sized medical manual will be glad to find the 18th edition of *The Handbook of Medical Treatment*. The authors, senior residents, fellows, and staff at the University of California at San Francisco have endeavored to write a "comprehensive up-to-date approach to common medical problems" geared toward "medical students, house staff, practicing clinicians, and paramedical professionals." Although this appears to be a rather ambitious task, they have succeeded in compiling a noteworthy condensed work.

The book's 516 pages are divided into 26 sections spanning the major topics in internal medicine; however, major subdivisions are confusingly arranged. One chapter is devoted to "Renal Diseases," while "Respiratory Failure" and "Diabetes Mellitus" are allotted chapters separate from "Respiratory Diseases" and "Endocrine Disorders." It would have been more appropriate to organize the text by organ systems.

The discussion of each disorder is neatly divided into introductory paragraphs describing the basic principles or pathogenesis, followed by a properly placed emphasis on diagnostic approach and therapeutic recommendations. The book is replete with charts and tables that complement the text.

The topics addressed tend to be those not commonly seen in the outpatient setting. Yet, students and house staff would do well to carry this book with them on the wards as a valuable, quick reference.

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DECISIONS IN ADULT ACUTE CARE

by Philip H. Goodman and Kenneth J. Kurtz
Raven Press

Decisions in Adult Acute Care is 179 pages of charts and tables of information deemed necessary to facilitate care for the sick adult patient. Included are flow diagrams of the advance cardiac life support protocols,

guidelines on administering streptokinase, a chart showing how maneuvers affect cardiac murmurs, and step-by-step instructions relating to chest-tube insertion, to name a few. The book is nicely organized by organ system, is well indexed, and has a brief list of references. The information is, for the most part, relevant and important, although I do not think a chart of the lung-capacity subdivisions or a list of curable cancers belonged in this book.

The text is difficult to read because it appears to have been typed from a personal computer with a mix of type sizes and prints. The lists are long, the charts are complex, and explanatory text is minimal. While students and interns may find the lists tedious and difficult, senior-level house staff and practicing physicians would probably be able to put the information into perspective and welcome the lists and tables when confronted with the acutely sick patient.

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RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS: DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT

Edited by James E. Pennington
Raven Press

The second edition of *Respiratory Infections: Diagnosis and Management* is a comprehensive text covering infectious diseases of the upper and lower respiratory tract. The book is written in a straightforward, practical style, with most chapters sequentially covering the epidemiology, pathology, clinical presentation, and therapeutic considerations of a particular disease or organism.

The book is divided into five sections covering the pathogenesis of respiratory infections; diagnostic techniques for respiratory infections; the clinical occurrence of respiratory infections, in which the probable pathogens are discussed from the context of a particular clinical scenario such as bacterial pneumonia in the elderly; a section covering the individual infectious agents in greater detail; and finally, a section specifically addressing therapeutic considerations such as antibiotic penetration, the use of newer antibiotics, and the use of ad-