

BOOK REVIEWS

Opinions on recent titles

The Year in Gynaecology 2001. Janet Barter and Naomi Hampton. Oxford: Clinical Publishing Services, 2001. ISBN: 0-9537339-2-0. Cost: £49.50. Pages: 400.

This is an excellent book that will be of value to all providing family planning and reproductive health care worldwide. It is also likely to be most useful to those with an interest in this area who work in both primary or secondary care settings. It gives an overview of developments in three key areas: Reproductive Health Care, the Menopause and Gynaecology. The title is slightly misleading in that papers from as early as 1995 are included, but this only adds to the quality of the reviews. The book's value is in the concise presentation of clinical and scientific research papers. This is done with a short background summary followed by the interpretation of the study findings. The comment that follows looks critically at the paper, presenting both its strengths and weaknesses and highlighting suggestions for future research. The Gynaecology section is quite specialised, and includes subsections on gynaecological malignancy, infertility, urogynaecology and screening for fetal anomalies. However, the introduction to each section, together with presentation of important papers, allows this textbook to be used as a useful source of information on a variety of topics. The papers included were chosen by the authors of individual chapters and not by means of a systematic review. This must be borne in mind when reading the text. This textbook could also be used to aid in the learning of the skills of critical appraisal. The original papers could be studied within a journal club and appraised with the help of the relevant sections. I look forward to *The Year in Gynaecology 2002*.

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Psychosexual Medicine. Ruth Skrine and Heather Montford (eds). London: Arnold (Hodder Headline Group), 2001. ISBN: 0-340-76142-3. Cost: £29.99. Pages: 242.

The second edition of this book has been thoroughly revised and updated. The design looks modern. Key points and boxed summaries help the reader find information quickly. A different author writes each chapter. Most are members of the Institute of Psychosexual Medicine. The book covers the psychological aspects of sexual problems and how these interact with physical causes. The book is divided into three parts. The first part covers the principles of psychosexual medicine. New chapters on the physical aspects of the female and male sexual responses, written by a gynaecologist and urologist, respectively, broaden the content to cover other aspects of sexuality. The second part deals with psychosexual problems. It includes new treatments of erectile dysfunction. A psychiatrist writes a chapter on disorders of sexual preference and gender identity, conditions that are met infrequently by most doctors. It includes advice on appropriate referral. The third part explores the provision of psychosexual medicine in different settings and its difficulties. It offers practical suggestions. I thoroughly recommend this excellent book to any health professional wanting to know more about psychosexual medicine. It represents good value for money.

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