

Simon annotated each chapter by adding references, the text would be a great candidate for required reading by all students of medicine, young and old. Although Simon is a well-respected internist, his comments focus almost entirely on adults. Hence, a nearly great work could be improved by adding materials related to children and adolescents and by emphasizing preventive issues that span the entire life cycle. Perhaps future editions will involve a collaboration of this excellent writer with the experience and insight of a family physician that can cover not only other age groups, but highlight the roles that systems of individuals (eg, families, worksites) play in adopting healthy behaviors.

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Manual of Clinical Problems in Adult Ambulatory Care

*2nd ed, edited by Laurie Dornbrand,
Axalla J. Hoole, C. Glenn Pickard, Jr,
748 pp, \$26.50, ISBN 0-316-19019-5,
Boston, Mass, Little Brown & Co Inc,
1992.*

This spiral-bound handbook is similar to others in the expanding collection of publications that focus on practical aspects of common prob-

lems in various areas of medicine. The manuals are designed to be used as quick references during patient care activities, and this one is no exception. As the title implies, it deals with adult ambulatory care, and covers a broad range of topics predominantly in internal medicine, but includes common problems in psychiatry as well as various surgical specialties.

The book is divided into sections defined for the most part by organ systems, although sections on more general topics such as constitutional symptoms, health maintenance, dizziness, and chronic idiopathic pain are also included. The contents are limited to common ambulatory problems and are well referenced. The text is clearly written, practical, and contains balanced views in controversial areas. In-depth reviews of relevant basic science material are not included in this handbook, but would not enhance its usefulness. I had difficulty using the index to locate information on a given topic. The table of contents is more useful for finding information.

From the standpoint of a practicing family physician, the weakest area of content in the manual is gynecology. Early referral to specialists is the mainstay of evaluation and treatment of such common problems as irregular and perimenopausal bleeding. Colposcopy is considered a procedure for specialists only. The Papanicolaou test

is discussed as a screening tool, but I could find no mention of treating abnormal results, assessing risk factors, or the role of human papillomavirus in the origin of cervical cancer. Mastitis is not even mentioned under diseases of the breast.

This manual's strength is internal medicine and these contributions reflect state-of-the-art medicine for the most common medical problems seen in primary care ambulatory practice. Each section includes a good review of the current understanding of the disease process along with discussion of available diagnostic and therapeutic modalities.

All things considered, the manual is a good resource. The sections on controversial or rapidly advancing fields such as health maintenance, treatment of patients infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, and cardiology are alone worth the price. Physicians in training will probably find the book more useful than experienced clinicians will, but it updates advancing areas of internal medicine for physicians at any stage of development. The manual does not fully meet the needs of practicing family physicians with broad-based practices, and other resources, particularly in the areas outside the scope of internal medicine, are needed.

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