concern in primary care and, appropriately in today’s climate, with attention to pitfalls with a potentially litigious outcome. The diagrams and photographs in this booklet are of outstanding clarity.

The ABC of Emergency Radiology would be a boon to any doctor working in the field of accident and emergency, containing comprehensive cover of most of the problems likely to be encountered. The coupling of labelled line drawings next to the appropriate X-ray is helpful, and anyone making frequent use of this booklet would steadily improve their radiological skills.

The ABC hallmarks or succinctness and clarity, with the use of boxes and tables to emphasise points, are particularly effective in the large and rather difficult area of rheumatology. My only quibble would be the imperfect indexing, and I was disappointed in the chapters on rheumatoid arthritis.

The ABC of Sexual Health is excellent. It covers the sensitive area of sexual history-taking particularly well, and has chapter in homosexuality, sex aids, and sex in the disabled, and the book is sprinkled with interesting and amusing cartoons and drawings, some from antiquity.

Jonathan Davey

Handbook of Trauma for Southern Africa


This much-awaited pocket-size handbook will be of great value to all of us who work in the emergency environment, whether it is in the pre-hospital setting, in emergency units, or in specialised trauma units across our country.

South Africans have traditionally been regarded as having expertise in the management of trauma, due to the fact that we are exposed to a large volume of physically injured people, a significant percentage of which present with major polytrauma.

This publication contains information from a wide spectrum of contributors, demonstrating the knowledge that has been gained by both training and experience in this broad field of medicine.

Trauma surgery and emergency medicine are correctly seen as being part of the same big picture; where trauma contributes to approximately one-third of the content of emergency medicine, there will always be the need for the expertise of the specialist trauma surgeon.

Contributors to the book other than trauma surgeons include intensivists, radiologists, forensic pathologists, cardiologists, EMS practitioners, ophthalmologists, among others. There are sections on emergency procedures, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the injured child, brain death and organ donation, and trauma in the elderly.

I anticipate that the popularity of this book will demand further editions in the near future, as this field of medicine is relatively new and many are in the process of making significant contributions.

The price of R275 should not prevent every medical officer and registrar who work in emergency environments from owning a copy of this excellent publication.

Congratulations to both Andrew Nicol and Elmin Steyn.

Clive Balfour

Books Received

The receipt of these books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits. The SAMJ does not publish unsolicited reviews.


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