

Of particular interest is that Krebs was trained as physician and, in the period covered by this volume, did in fact practice medicine and conduct laboratory research at the same time. He was, indeed, in today's terms, a clinical investigator.

This volume, because of its length and detail, will not find many readers. Its value is primarily of archival and historical interest.

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Pediatric Heart Sounds

Understanding Pediatric Heart Sounds, by Steven Lehrer, 230 pp, with illus, and one audiocassette, paper \$38.95, ISBN 0-7216-2387-5, Philadelphia, Pa, WB Saunders Co, 1992.

This 230-page softcover book, by Steven Lehrer, MD, is a comprehensive review of the literature related to heart sounds. The author writes simply and clearly. The book is almost an abbreviated text of pediatric cardiology and could be titled "Pediatric Cardiovascular Assessment and Diagnosis." Much of the material has been previously covered in such books as *Pediatric Cardiology for Practitioners*, by M. K. Park, and two books by J. K. Perloff, *The Clinical Recognition of Congenital Heart Disease* and *Physical Examination of the Heart and Circulation*.

The figures and tables are almost exclusively reproduced with acknowledgment from previous publications. Although little new information is included, the manner in which the author presents the material is outstanding and goes much beyond the understanding of pediatric heart sounds. The references at the end of each chapter are extensive and excellent for the student who desires to pursue the subjects in great detail.

The chapter on heart murmurs will be particularly helpful for a better understanding of the origins of such sounds. As pointed out by the author, functional benign heart murmurs are common in children, yet perplexing for the practitioner to identify. Most care givers feel uncomfortable with any murmur that is grade 3 in intensity and will refer the child to a pediatric cardiologist for assessment.

The glossary is very beneficial, as is the chapter "Transcript for the Supplemental Tape." The tape should be most useful to the sincere student of auscultation. With the faster heart rates of younger children, the use of one's stethoscope under the tutored wisdom of an experienced pediatric cardiologist is indispensable!

The first three chapters of this book will be most helpful to all medical students. Family practice and pediatric residents and pediatric cardiology fellows will find the book full of good information in summary form. For the practicing care giver, the book will be an excellent reference text for refresher information.

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Difficult Diagnosis

Difficult Diagnosis 2, by Robert B. Taylor, 548 pp, \$60, ISBN 0-7216-3481-8, Philadelphia, Pa, WB Saunders Co, 1992.

The purpose of medicine is healing, and rational methods of healing depend upon diagnosis. Ninety years ago, Sir William Osler (in *Aequanimitas*) said that in the fight against ignorance, quackery, and folly, "... diagnosis, not drugging, is our chief weapon of offence. Lack of systematic personal training in the methods of the recognition of disease leads to the misapplication of remedies, to long courses of treatment when treatment is useless, and so directly to that lack of confidence in our methods which is apt to place us in the eyes of the public on a level with empirics and quacks." The book being reviewed here will help the modern physician in the diagnosis of some of the everyday problems in his or her practice.

Difficult Diagnosis 2 considers, in 515 pages, 71 topics in alphabetical order, from "abdominal pain, chronic" to "xerostomia." One hundred twenty-seven writers have contributed. The topics include symptoms (eg, chest pain), physical findings (hepatomegaly), laboratory or imaging abnormalities (hyperuricemia, mediastinal mass), syndromes (congestive heart failure), and specific diseases (human immunodeficiency virus infection). It is addressed to the practicing physician. Pediatricians will find childhood diagnostic problems discussed, eg, in the topics of dysuria and hematochezia, and there are three topics devoted entirely to children (limb pain, seizures, and fever). There are illustrations and tables. Some of the latter are extensive, such as those listing 51 causes of Raynaud's phenomenon, 73 causes of dyspareunia (which do not include purely psychogenic), and 96 causes of hematochezia.

The topics are all organized in a similar fashion. The format is flexible enough not to be forced, except, surprisingly, in synonyms, eg, *costiveness* for *constipation* and "a sudden, noisy, persistent expulsion of air from the lungs" for chronic

cough. The discussions start with a section "On Background," which provides an overview of the subject, its pathophysiology, and its causes. There follows the information to be developed by the medical history, including helpful "focused queries." Discussed next are the relevant physical findings and pertinent diagnostic studies, including blood tests, imaging studies, and biopsy findings. Each section ends with a long summary "assessment." Nothing is said concerning treatment.

There is, inevitably, some unevenness in quality from topic to topic, but nearly all are good and some are excellent. Among my favorites are excessive sleepiness, tachypnea, mediastinal mass, and vesiculobullous disorders. Undoubtedly other readers will prefer other topics. I think every clinician can learn something from this book. Zinc deficiency as a cause of chronic fatigue was new to me, as were Schamroth's sign of clubbing and the details of biologic theories of anxiety. In the topic "phantogeusia" I learned some new words (cacogeusia and torquegeusia), but, despite a long table of etiologic factors, there is no consideration of this problem as a somatic delusion, a concept I feel was useful in most of the patients I have seen with this complaint.

For many years the standard book in this field has been *French's Index of Differential Diagnosis*. It was first published in 1912, and the 12th and most recent edition came out in 1985. Another volume in the field is Samiy's excellent *Textbook of Diagnostic Medicine* (Philadelphia, Pa, Lea & Febiger, 1987). Considerably different is Saunders' successful *Current Diagnosis* series, in which the bulk of the text groups specific diseases by system, discussing the diagnosis of each, much as in a standard textbook of medicine. The latest edition, the eighth, was published in 1991. Taylor's original *Difficult Diagnosis* appeared in 1985 and resembles the present volume, but it deals with different topics. It was written when computed tomographic scans were new and before magnetic resonance and other diagnostic imaging techniques were used clinically and needs to be updated.

Difficult Diagnosis 2, although not complete in itself, will be useful to students who want to know more about the differential diagnosis of the 71 topics it addresses and provides a practical source of information for the physician in practice. When its predecessor volume is revised, the pair of them will be especially valuable.

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