

nized, and typically respond promptly to antibiotic therapy. Others, such as chorioamnionitis, hepatitis B, syphilis, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, primary herpes simplex, and varicella, pose a considerable threat to the well-being of both the mother and the fetus and neonate. Still others, such as cytomegalovirus infection, toxoplasmosis, rubella, and parvovirus infection, present little risk to an immunologically competent pregnant woman but may cause severe injury to a developing fetus. In these circumstances, considerable expertise is required to accurately identify and treat the affected fetus.

The second edition of *Infections in Pregnancy* by Gilstrap and Faro is a valuable reference for clinicians who seek to understand the consequences of these varied infections for the mother and the fetus. The book is particularly appropriate for residents in obstetrics and gynecology and family practice, fellows in maternal-fetal medicine, medical infectious-disease consultants, and obstetrical nurse-practitioners.

The first edition was a multiauthored textbook. The second edition has been entirely rewritten by two physicians with unique perspectives. Dr. Faro is both a generalist clinician and an experienced research microbiologist. His influence is most evident in the clearly written descriptions of the microbiology, epidemiology, and pathophysiology of obstetrical infections. Dr. Gilstrap is an accomplished clinical investigator and an expert in the care of women with high-risk pregnancies. His effect on the narrative is most apparent in the thoughtful and carefully reasoned, evidence-based recommendations for treatment.

Infections in Pregnancy has several strengths. First, it is well organized and well written; the new format smooths out some of the irregularities inherent in any multiauthored textbook. Second, the book is comprehensive without being ponderous. It provides an excellent overview of maternal infections ranging from relatively uncomplicated vaginal and endocervical infections to life-threatening disorders such as septic shock, necrotizing fasciitis, and HIV infection. It also presents clear, concise reviews of the major perinatally transmitted infections, including rubella, varicella, syphilis, and toxoplasmosis and those due to parvovirus, hepatitis B, and cytomegalovirus. In recognition of the ever increasing frequency of international travel, the authors have also included a chapter on unusual parasitic diseases, such as babesiosis, trypanosomiasis, and leishmaniasis, which pose major threats to pregnant women who travel to or reside in areas of the world where these diseases are endemic. Third, the textbook is very well illustrated, especially the chapters on syphilis and protozoan infections. Fourth, the authors have provided exceptionally good diagnostic and management algorithms. These easy-to-follow diagrams are particularly helpful in understanding the more complicated maternal and fetal infections. The clarity of the algorithms is complemented by concise summaries of salient points at the end of each chapter.

The weak points of the book are few. As with any textbook that takes months to prepare, new developments have supplanted some of the authors' recommendations. For example, the diagnosis of congenital toxoplasmosis can now be made by applying DNA probes to fetal cells obtained by amniocentesis, thus making the more dangerous procedure of umbilical-blood sampling unnecessary. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has now published new recommendations for antibiotic

prophylaxis against opportunistic infections in HIV-infected patients that differ slightly from those of the authors.

The authors might also have devoted more attention to the issue of cost-effective selection of antibiotics. They do not address the newer pharmacokinetic data showing improved efficacy, a lower risk of toxicity, and a lower cost with single daily dosing of aminoglycosides, as compared with multidose regimens. They also do not specifically consider cost comparisons between single-agent therapy with the newer extended-spectrum penicillins, cephalosporins, and carbapenems and older combination regimens such as clindamycin, penicillin, and gentamicin.

However, in the final analysis, these criticisms are minor and in no way detract from the authors' substantial contribution to the infectious-diseases literature. For clinicians, both generalists and specialists, this textbook is an excellent reference, providing a thoughtful synthesis of basic-science material and practical clinical guidelines. It merits a place in the libraries of all providers concerned with the care and well-being of obstetrical patients.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES LIBRARY

CD-ROM with manual. Version 2.0. By Gerald L. Mandell.

System needed: Multimedia IBM PC or compatible computer with 4 MB of RAM. (Also available for Macintosh Systems 7.0 or higher with 4 MB of RAM.) New York, Churchill Livingstone, 1997. \$395.

ISBN 0-443-07931-5.

CHAPTERS devoted to infectious diseases are an integral part of every specialty textbook, but one may occasionally wish to consult a more comprehensive source. *Mandell's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases* is such a source. The AIDS pandemic has refocused our attention on many bizarre infectious agents. Contrary to previous forecasts, the relative contributions of infectious agents in the differential diagnosis of many common conditions seem to have increased steadily during the past decade.

This CD-ROM contains the entire contents of the 2803-page fourth edition of *Mandell's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases*, with all its tables and figures. This version includes two additional works linked to the textbook. The first, *Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases Antimicrobial Therapy 1996/1997*, is a concise and highly practical data base of therapies. The second is a collection of almost 70,000 Medline abstracts from leading journals in the field of infectious diseases, spanning the five-year period 1990–1995. These abstracts are hyperlinked to citations within the text so that when you click on a highlighted bibliographical reference, the full abstract is displayed. Although not all textbook references are included in the Medline data base, this utility provides full coverage of abstracts in these journals regardless of whether they are cited in the text.

The excellent search engine, Folio Infobase, provides sophisticated searching tools that use standard query op-

tions. For example, cross-matching *cytomegalovirus* and *ganciclovir* resulted in 40 hits, indicating the wealth of clinically useful information found in this source. When searching for *mycoplasma* and *heart*, we found that although some of the 12 hits were irrelevant, mycoplasma is associated with myocarditis, mediastinitis that develops after heart transplantation, and wound infections as well as with infective endocarditis. This search proved to be an efficient preliminary step before doing a full Medline search of the literature. Needless to say, a similar procedure would be impossible with the printed version of the book.

Besides these search options, one is offered additional features, such as the ability to add notes and bookmarks and to highlight text. A minor drawback that is common to all electronic textbooks, including this one, is the lack of page numbering. This omission may become problematic when one wishes to cite this source in a manuscript.

In conclusion, we highly recommend the use of this comprehensive resource for routine clinical care of patients, and we recommend it even more highly in academic settings. However, the relatively high price tag might put off many potential users.

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TEXTBOOK OF TRAVEL MEDICINE AND HEALTH

Edited by Herbert L. DuPont and Robert Steffen. 370 pp., with CD-ROM. Hamilton, Ont., B.C. Decker, 1997. (Distributed by Blackwell Science, Cambridge, Mass.) \$125. ISBN 1-55009-037-2.

TENS of millions of trips are taken by travelers from developed to developing countries annually, for pleasure, business, education, and religious reasons and to visit family. Responding to the demand for travelers' health services, clinics to provide immunizations, preventive medical advice, and diagnosis and treatment of exotic diseases have proliferated.

A modern textbook to guide that work is needed. This book was developed, as the editors state, "to provide a single source of information for physicians and paramedical personnel interested in the medical problems of travelers." It achieves this goal remarkably well because of its organization and its expert authors. Most chapters have at least two authors, usually from different continents, giving the book a truly international flavor.

Some chapters are excellent, such as Peter H. Hackett's "Medical Problems of High Altitude." "Parasitic Tropical Infections," by Mary Elizabeth Wilson and Thomas Löscher, is concise and practical. "Economic Evaluation in Travel Medicine," by Philippe Beutels et al., analyzes the economic costs and benefits of measures such as specific immunizations. Jay S. Keystone and Daniel Reid remind us how difficult it is to get patients to follow advice in "Compliance with Travel Health Recommendations." Chapters

on unique problems of very-short-term travel; expatriates; expedition participants; traveling with children; pregnancy, nursing, contraception, and travel; and the aged, infirm, or handicapped traveler also excel.

The book has some faults. Repetitive information on obtaining a history and the delivery of pretravel health services is given in three chapters. The section "Travel and Travel Clinics in Asia" is limited to China, Hong Kong, and Singapore. The section "Physiology and Decompression: Diving-Related Health Problems" is too abbreviated. Chapter 11, "Hot and Cold! Medical Risks of Environmental Extremes," does not discuss clothing. The chapter on wilderness clothing by A.L. Dickensen in *Wilderness Medicine*, edited by P.S. Auerbach (3rd ed. St. Louis: Mosby, 1995) covers that topic competently and should have been referenced.

Discrepancies between chapters need resolution. We are advised to boil water for five to seven minutes to make it potable on page 50 and just bring it to a boil on page 90. Fatal cardiac arrhythmias associated with halofantrine are not mentioned in the chapter "Treatment of Malaria," but they are mentioned in that on emergency self-treatment of malaria.

The rarity of transmission of malaria above 2000 m should have been discussed under the epidemiology of the disease. The purpose of chapter 8, "Developing Regions," is obscure, and its content could have been integrated elsewhere. The section on motion sickness is excessively historical and anecdotal and deals inadequately with prevention and treatment. Chapter 20, "Psychiatric Illness and Stress," contains cryptic statements about complications of the use of monoamine oxidase inhibitors and lithium treatment that are neither substantive nor referenced. The problem of culture shock is covered superficially; a useful reference would have been *The Art of Crossing Cultures* by C. Storti (Yarmouth, Me.: Intercultural Press, 1989).

Two chapters contain potentially dangerous misinformation. Recommending tourniquets, ice, and incision for poisonous-snake bites is, at best, controversial and may increase morbidity and mortality. Postexposure rabies vaccination should be given intramuscularly, not intradermally, to patients who have been immunized before exposure, according to Public Health Service guidelines.

Imaginatively, the book predicts future trends in travel medicine. Unfortunately, the effect of environmental changes on future tourism and geographic medicine is neglected. Global warming could change the distribution of vectors of tropical diseases and cause coastal flooding and massive migrations. Loss of biodiversity will decrease the attractiveness of certain areas for tourism; countries that conserve their natural resources will become more desirable destinations.

The specialized medical organizations that promote continuing education and research in travel, tropical, and wilderness medicine are not mentioned. The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene offers an examination for certification in clinical tropical medicine and travelers' health. That development should have been discussed in the chapter on travel medicine and travel clinics in the United States and Canada, and its implications for the future of the specialty should have been discussed in chapter 34 ("Travel Medicine 2007").

Despite these shortcomings, this book organizes and presents a unique and broad range of information very