



"Color Atlas of Regional Dermatology," by Gary M. White, MD

A Book Review

Most primary care physicians suffer a common problem: our patients keep coming in with skin problems that we cannot identify. This scenario is frustrating to patients, personally embarrassing, and costly to the medical group. Dermatology referrals often ensue for what turn out to be minor problems. Rarely, serious problems are overlooked.

Though one might attempt to learn dermatology from the well-organized, erudite, and well-written texts that have been put forth for years by Walter Shelley or from the fine new text and color illustrations of Habif, in fact those books are not satisfactory for non-dermatologists when a patient is immediately at hand because they are not designed for rapid use. Gary White, the new chief of dermatology in San Diego, has filled a need with his ingenious idea for a color atlas based on characteristic location rather than etiology. That, of course, is the way patients come in: with a rash on the ankle, or blistering on the inner forearm.

The *Atlas* is divided into sections, including the scalp, forehead, nose, anterior neck, nape, buttocks, gluteal cleft, perianal area, and more. All lesions are well photographed in color. Each of the more than one thousand photos is accompanied by a brief text, advice on treatment, and references to the literature. The book is well indexed; inside each cover is a rapid guide to pages of the various body locations that are used.

The *Color Atlas of Regional Dermatology* by Dr. White is cleverly suited to be immediately useful to primary care practitioners; definitively so in most instances. I usually find it helpful a few times each week; occasionally it is a jumping off place to something I otherwise never would have learned about. For the practitioner who wants practical assistance in identifying skin lesions, this easy-to-use book is a valuable workaday tool. ❖

Mosby-Wolfe, 1994, \$99 for hardback, \$39.95 for paperback. ISBN 0-7234-2027-0.

Additional Books Received for Review:

The Well-Informed Patient's Guide to Prostate Problems, Charles E. Shapiro, MD and Kathleen Doheny. Dell Books 1993, ISBN 0-440-21258-8, Paperback, out of print. Dr. Shapiro is Chief of Urology at SCPMG Los Angeles.

Anyone Can Intubate, Christine E. Whitten, MD. KW Publications, San Diego 1997 (4th edition). Paperback, \$19.95. ISBN 0-929894-18-9. Dr. Whitten is Chief of Anesthesiology at SCPMG San Diego.

Physician Assistants in American Medicine, Roderick S. Hooker, PA, and James F. Cawley, PA. Churchill-Livingstone 1997. ISBN 0-443-05731-1. Paperback, \$29.95. Mr. Hooker is a PA with NWP,PC in Portland.

Stories of Adoption: Loss and Reunion, Eric Blau, MD. NewSage Press, 1993; ISBN 0-93916517-1. Paperback, \$16.95. Dr. Blau is an internist with SCPMG San Diego.

On a pilot basis during the next year, a book review column will be published in each issue; reader response will determine its usefulness. Preferential review will be given to Permanent authors of recent medical works. Authors should request their publisher to send a review copy to the *Journal*; in the case of multiple authorship, please specify who is the Permanent author. While not all submitted texts can be reviewed, all will be acknowledged in print, with their authors.