

## Announcements...

### Practical skin pathology course

A course on Practical Skin Pathology approved by the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Dermatology will be given at Grossinger's, Liberty, New York, August 28 to September 2, 1983. This is a rigorous, comprehensive and practical review and update of Dermatopathology for Pathologists and Dermatologists that is sponsored by the Department of Dermatology, New York Medical College-Metropolitan Hospital Center, New York, N.Y., Microscopes and a two volume syllabus will be provided. There will be 38 formal thirty minute lectures, 8 supervised microscope sessions (16 Hours) of 400 unknown workshop slides, and 20 additional hours for optional independent study of the microscopic slides. The course director is Martin H. Brownstein (New York). The faculty consists of Martin M. Black (London, England), Loren E. Golitz (Denver), Ken Hashimoto (Detroit), Wayne C. Johnson (Philadelphia), John Maize (Charleston), Amir H. Mehregan (Detroit), and David Weedon (Brisbane, Australia). For further information, please write to Martin H. Brownstein, M.D., Skin Pathology Course, 2 Jordan Drive, Great Neck, New York 11021 or Phone (516) 829-8578.

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The 4th international symposium on plastic and reconstructive surgery of the Head and neck will be held at the Century Plazo Hotel, Los Angeles, CA May 29 - June 2, 1983. The specialists represent all disciplines in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery.

For additional information about the Symposium, write to: Dr. Walter E. Berman, 9735 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90212.

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Seventh National Conference of Indian Association of the Study of Sexually transmitted diseases.

The conference will be held on 26th and 27th February 1983 at West End Hotel, Bombay.

For further details, kindly contact Dr. J. K. Maniar, Organising Secretary, 69/51 Walkeswar Road, Bombay-400006.

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The History of Dermatology Society sponsored their Annual History of Dermatology Week end on December 4-5, 1982 at the time of the American Academy of Dermatology Meeting in New Orleans.

The Third Samuel J. Zakon prize in the History of Dermatology was awarded to Manfred Skopec, Ph.D., Vienna, Austria, for his presentation on Anton Elfinger (1821-1864) - a forgotten Medical Illustrator. Honorable mention was given to C.G.

Uragoda, M.D., Sri Lanka and Leslie Marquis, M.D., Bombay, India.

Entries, as well as queries, for the Fourth Samuel J. Zakon Prize in the History of Dermatology should be sent to John Thorne Crissey, M.D. 960 East Green Street, Pasadena, CA (213) 449-4207, prior to October 1, 1983.

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## BOOK REVIEW

Practice of Dermatology by Dr. P. N. Behl, 5th edition, 1982 published by Allied Book Agency, 18A Shyama Charan Dey Street, Calcutta-700073.

This fifth revised edition of Practice of Dermatology which for years helped both post and under graduate students and Medical practitioners to understand the vast subject of skin diseases is a welcome addition.

Many chapters of the book have been rewritten incorporating the latest advances in the subject. Book as a whole is well presented in a comprehensive manner, highlighting the important practical details keeping in mind the difficulties and requirement of the students and the practitioners in particular those in practice of Dermatology. Details of general nursing measures including dietary advices in different dermatological conditions will come to the rescue of medical practitioners. Dermatologists will also be equally benefited.

I congratulate the author for bringing out this revised edition of the text book "Practice of Dermatology" with up-to-date informations in a simple language avoiding controversies and jargons. Management of cases in Indian background is highly appreciable. Photographs and sketches are very well selected and representative. Though the book is well written, compact and up-to-date, I would like to add the following on certain aspects/comments made in the book.

VDRL test even though may be positive in lepromatous leprosy does not certainly form part of diagnostic investigations. Role of hydnocarpus oil has probably been overemphasised. At the same time the role of rifampicin has not been elaborated to the extent needed. The possibility of *M. leprae* developing resistance to DDS is not very rare as stated in the book. The role and use of different food items like cheese, butter milk, almonds, germinating grams and drugs/chemicals like geriforte, placenta extract, copper sulphate etc., are controversial. Incorporation of copper sulphate in whitfield ointment is not understood. Similarly use of Nivea cream, Brylcream in making cream/emulsions is ill-understood. Though the list of trade names of drugs is welcome, their frequent mention in the management of cases are not advocated.

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