

BOOK REVIEWS

Pathogenesis of Skin Disease, Thiers BH and Dobson RL : Churchill Livingstone, New York, 1986; pp 642, Price, £ 85.00.

The pathogenesis of most of the dermatological conditions is still on its way to elucidation. The researches are on and the progress and changes are so fast that every day there is addition of some new knowledge to our understanding of these disorders. It is really admirable to produce a monument on such an aspect of the dermatological diseases. Although the chapters are selected arbitrarily, they are mostly useful and written by 67 renowned authorities in the field. The text has been divided into 13 sections comprising of 40 well known groups of dermatological conditions, namely, Section I. Allergic and eczematous disorders, 1. Allergic contact dermatitis, 2. Atopic dermatitis, 3. Urticaria, Section II. Disorders of pilosebaceous units, 4. Acne, 5. Androgenetic alopecia, 6. Alopecia areata, Section III. Papulosquamous disorders, 7. Psoriasis, 8. Lichen planus, Section IV. Pigmentary disorders, 9. Vitiligo, Section V. Bullous disorders, 10. Pemphigus vulgaris, 11. Bullous pemphigoid, 12. Dermatitis herpetiformis, 13. Herpes gestationis, 14. Epidermolysis bullosa acquisita, Section VI. Connective tissue and vascular disorders, 15. Vasculitis, 16. Systemic lupus erythematosus, 17. Scleroderma, 18. Dermatomyositis, 19. Behcet's disease, 20. Pyoderma gangrenosum, 21. Bowell bypass syndrome, 22. Erythema multiforme, Section VII. Granulomatous disorders, 23. Granuloma annulare, 24. Sarcoidosis, Section VIII. Metabolic disorders, 25. Porphyrias, 26. Hyperlipidemias, Section IX. Infectious disorders, 27. Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, Section X. Neoplastic disorders,

28. Viral carcinogenesis, 29. Bowenoid papulosis, 30. Nonmelanoma skin cancer, 31. Malignant melanoma, 32. Kaposi's sarcoma, 33. Mycosis fungoides and the Sezary syndrome, 34. Histiocytosis, Section XI. Inherited disorders, 35. Ichthyoses, 36. Epidermolysis bullosa, 37. Ehler Danlos syndrome, 38. Xeroderma pigmentosum, Section XII. Disorders of body image, 39. Psychocutaneous disorders, and, Section XIII. Physiologic responses to injury, 40. Wound healing.

Each chapter follows a uniform pattern as brief history of the disease, concise clinical description and histology, a comprehensive account of whys and hows of the disease, followed, at the end, by a summary and/or a bold hypothesis about the evolution of the disease. The language is clear and easily understandable. The text has been simplified with the help of many small tables, line diagrams or schematic presentations especially where multifactorial interactions are taking place. The pictures are black and white, relatively few but sufficient. There are numerous useful references dating back to 1806 (chapter 33) and upto 1985 (chapter 38) apart from one or two incomplete references (references nos. 31 & 72, chapter 34) where years of study are missing. The text is amply indexed. The book will be of great help to the postgraduate students, dermatologists and interested practicing physicians and will be welcomed by those who look beyond the treatment of dermatological problems and desire to be up-to-date on their pathogenesis.

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