

BOOK REVIEW

Practice of Dermatology by Dr. P. N. Behl, 5th edition, 1982 published by Allied Book Agency, 18 A 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 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, high-lighting the important practical details keeping in mind the difficulties and requirement of the students, the practitioners in particular in practice of Dermatology. Details of general nursing measures including dietary advises 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 though positive in lepromatous leprosy does not certainly form a part of diagnostic investigations. Role of hydnocarpus oil has probably been over-emphasised. At the same time the role of rifampicin has not been elaborated to the extent it needs. 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 Gerifrate, Placenta extract, copper sulphate, etc. are controversial. Incorporation of copper sulphate in whitfield ointment is not understood. Similarly use of Nivea cream and 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 is not advocated.

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