

## BOOK REVIEWS

---

**Treatment of skin diseases, Third edition, Pasricha JS : Oxford and IBH Publishers, New Delhi, 1985; pp 208, Price Rs. 37.**

There is no dearth of text books on dermatology for postgraduates, nor of books giving an overview of dermatology for medical practitioners and undergraduates. But most of these books tend to be too elaborate and theoretical, to be of any real benefit to the practitioners and undergraduates who neither have the time, nor the patience. This book written by Dr. Pasricha fulfills that requirement, because it contains a precise description of various common skin disorders and then describes the details of treatment. The clinical features are brief and clearly stated and description of the treatment includes the common side effects of drugs and follow up. It is significant that only the common skin diseases, specially those peculiar to the continent are described and only those treatment procedures are included which are available here. Dr. Pasricha has succeeded in keeping the book precise, readable and interesting.

The appendix consisting of the proprietary names of various drugs, their constituents and concentrations will prove of immense help as a ready reckoner. All the chapters are in order.

Leprosy being such a common disease and of national importance, being often misdiagnosed, needs to be more elaborate and illustrative. The statement regarding the use of INH and thiacetazone in leprosy is debatable and has emphatically been turned down by many American and English authors. Prophylaxis in the family members of leprosy patients, especially the children should have been clarified. Some of the colour-plates are misplaced. If they are placed opposite the corresponding text, it would be better.

The third edition printed in 1984 has already been reprinted in 1985, which speaks of the popularity of this book. It is worth more than its cost for medical practitioners and undergraduates.

**R. M. Parmanand**  
Indore.