

## BOOK REVIEWS

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**Textbook of Psoriasis, Mier PD and van der Kerkhof PCM : Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1986; pp 292, price £ 45.00.**

This monograph on psoriasis comprising of 20 chapters written over 292 pages under dutch editorship is compiled by renowned experts in their various fields. The text is divided into three parts. Part I deals with the clinical aspects of psoriasis accounting separate chapters on epidemiology and genetics, clinical features, histology, arthropathy, and psychological aspects. Part II provides good details of basic structural and functional aberrations at the cellular level in psoriasis with a separate chapter on immunology. Part III is on the therapeutic approach in which corticosteroids, dithranol, phototherapy, PUVA, methotrexate, and retinoids are discussed, separately as well as in combinations.

Although the individual chapters vary, most of the text is concisely written, supported by black and white pictures, line-drawings and small but self explanatory tables with summaries and references at the end of each chapter. A good account of genetics of psoriasis and about

various psoriasis associations around the world has been given. The chapter on psoriatic arthropathy provides a comprehensive account of joint involvement and the chapter on doctor patient relationship is new, well stressed and appreciable. The section on cell kinetics, ultrastructure and molecular biology is illustrated to the date of coverage and further aids in the understanding of this disease.

In the therapy section, chapters on PUVA, methotrexate, and retinoids are excellent but surprisingly tar is completely omitted as are the other modalities like razoxane, azathioprine, cyclosporin, hydroxy-urea, tenoxaprofen, and dialysis and related procedures.

The book will benefit students, junior dermatologists and clinicians involved in the study of psoriasis and/or the management of this complex disease. However, research workers and senior dermatologists will still need to approach one of the standard text books in dermatology.

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