

BOOK REVIEWS

Recent Advances in Dermatology, Vol 7, Champion RH: Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1986; pp 270, Price £ 28.00

Volumes on Recent Advances in Dermatology are always welcome, because it has become almost impossible to keep a track of all the latest developments in various fields. The topics included in this latest volume (number seven), are: (1) New Developments in Molecular Biology and Immunology, (2) Collagen Genes and Proteins in Human Diseases, (3) Epidermal Plasminogen Activator: Characterisation, Regulatory Mechanism and Possible Role in Skin Disease, (4) Prevention of Industrial Dermatitis, (5) The Assessment of Vascular Abnormalities of the Leg, (6) The Teeth in Dermatological Disease, (7) Recent Advances in Vulval Disease, (8) Drug Eruptions: Pathogenesis, Diagnosis and Clinical Manifestations, (9) Treatment, (10) Dermatological Surgery, (11) Specific Desensitisation in Dermatology, (12) Alternative Medicine and Dermatology. The choice of the topics is intriguing as well as interesting. Some topics like Teeth in Dermatological Diseases and Alternative Medicine and Dermatology are such which are not generally discussed in dermatological reviews. Their inclusion indicates the widening horizons of our speciality. There is a fair balance between basic studies and their clinical applications. Most of the chap-

ters are comprehensive and well written. We however, do not agree with the statement in the chapter on Drug Eruptions that reexposure to the same drug should never be considered in Stevens Johnson syndrome and Lyell's syndrome, because we have regularly employed the provocation test under our supervision for finding out the causal drugs and find this method to be safe and definitive if the criteria defined by us are followed. Moreover, there is hardly any mortality among our patients of Stevens-Johnson syndrome and Lyell's syndrome and the provocation test is still safer. This is in fact the only solid proof that the eruption was caused by the incriminated drug. We have earlier advanced several reasons why provocation under supervision is to be preferred to a random reexposure without the expert's supervision.

The only other problem with most western writers is that they almost completely ignore the Indian publications from their reviews even when these publications are in international journals. This becomes all the more unreasonable when these books are expected to be read by the Indian readers.

This book is recommended to all dermatologists who wish to keep themselves abreast of the latest developments.

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