

BOOK REVIEW

Dermatology and Venereology - Multiple Choice Questions (For Various Medical Examinations Including VQE, ECFMG, AIIMS, UPSC, PG ENTRANCE, AMC, FCGP, PLAB, BHU & DELHI UNIVERSITY) BY Dr. J. S. Pasricha, M.D., Ph.D., Dr. Ramji Gupta, M.D., (1982) Jitendar Vij Jaypee Brothers Price Rs. 16-00.

This book of multiple choice questions (MCQ) consists of 789 questions covering a wide range of subjects in the three specialities of dermatology, leprosy and sexually transmitted diseases. The price of the book is very attractive. The questions are of several types.

1. Where one or more correct answers are possible among a list of five alternatives—Majority of the questions are of this type.
2. Where statements have to be chosen as True or False—These are relatively few.
3. Where a list of statements have to be matched against given list of alternatives. These comprise a very small number.

The standard of the book is such that it will be useful for a person already exposed to the specialities to prepare for an examination in the subjects dealt with.

An important requisite for a book of this nature is extreme accuracy of facts. On this there are some defects in the book.

Some questions are unsatisfactory because of their ambiguity. An example of this is Question 669 dealing with effect of treatment in a leprosy patient. The question does not say what type of leprosy or what type of treatment or whether the effect should be obvious clinically or bacteriologically.

There are also questions where correctness of the answers is very doubtful. An example of such is Question 660 wherein according to the authors lepromin test shows a positive reaction in normal individuals. Perhaps if the wording of the question was carefully chosen the incorrectness of the answer could have been avoided.

There are other questions where answers given are wrong. An example is Question 759. It is a recognised fact that diagnosis of gonorrhoea is not established by Gram stain of the smear. Yet, this is given as one of the correct answers.

There is a small typographical error on P. 158 where in the middle column the number after 744 is given as 345 instead of 745.