

BOOK REVIEWS

Studies on the mechanical properties of human biomaterials, Gupta AB : Book Home, Calcutta, 1985; pp 89, Price Rs. 80.

Book writing on dermatology, in India has come of age. Till a few years ago, there were hardly any books on dermatology, venereology or leprology by Indian authors. We had to depend almost entirely on foreign writers. During the last decade or so, several Indian dermatologists have produced text books on various branches of this speciality, and some of these are no less than their international counterparts. This book on the mechanical properties of human biomaterials is yet another step forward in the progress of Indian dermatology.

The author has undertaken extensive studies on the mechanical properties of hair, nails, scar tissue, blood vessels, muscles and tendons. The maximum data is on hair for which the author has studied the behaviour of the hair especially its extensibility and the point of breakage under continued stretching. This

book is written like a thesis, in 5 chapters dealing with the review of literature, details of the instruments used, the methods, the results and the discussion. The chapter on the instruments used in this study, is specially useful for the future workers because it provides adequate details of these instruments. This book also contains two glossaries, one describing the physical terms used in this book for the benefit of medical readers, and the other describing the medical terms for the benefit of non-medical readers.

Although the data is very technical, every dermatologist would gain to know the physical aspects of the tissues that he deals with.

The whole book is printed on art paper and the printing is of international standards. No doubt the book is priced at Rs. 80, but compared to the price of foreign books, the Indian books are still the cheapest.

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