

## References

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## Book notices

*Current Pulmonology*. Vol 6. Daniel H Simmons. (Pp 339; £52.50 hardback.) Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc, 1985. (Available in UK from Blackwell, Oxford.)

This book is the sixth in a series of annual reviews of topics in respiratory medicine. It is a selected collection of 12 topics and is not intended to be a comprehensive volume covering the whole of respiratory medicine. All the authors come from North America or Canada but are not all situated within the same institution and the editor has therefore drawn from the expertise of several centres. Inevitably the styles of authorship vary but this does not matter. The quality is not invariably high, but only one or two chapters disappoint: in the main the texts are detailed, well researched, well written, and informative. The sections on occupational lung disease, asthma, complications encountered in the immunocompromised host and pulmonary embolism are notable, while the contribution on the molecular biology of lung cancer gives the reader an exciting glimpse of the future of research into lung cancer and hints at the impact molecular biology will have on other lung diseases. The impact of this book is, however, diminished by already being two years out of date. No reference is more recent than 1983 and, although this most likely reflects the interval between the preparation of manuscripts and their publication, it seems a pity that a book entitled *Current Pulmonology* is subject to

such a delay. I believe that a two year interlude is too long and may make the discriminating reader look elsewhere. Furthermore, the entirely transatlantic authorship has resulted in a very heavy bias in the references. This is apparent, for example, in the poor review of inhaled corticosteroids in chapter 11 and the skimpy treatment of anticholinergic treatment and nebuliser treatment in chapters 3 and 11. This text can be recommended to anyone wishing an overview of the subjects covered, provided that they do not expect detail on the more recent developments, for which they will have to refer to contemporary publications.

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*Environmental Health Criteria 55: Ethylene Oxide*. Published under joint sponsorship of the UN Environment Programme, the International Labour Organisation, and WHO. (Pp 79; 9 Sw Fr.) Geneva: World Health Organisation, 1985.

This booklet is the latest in the "Environmental Health" series published by the World Health Organisation and summarises available toxicological information relating to human and animal exposure to ethylene oxide. The recorded risks to individuals who work with ethylene oxide or who come into contact with equipment that has been sterilised with ethylene oxide appear to be very slight indeed. The booklet could nevertheless be a useful source of reference to any clinician asked to comment on possible harmful effects of exposure to the agent.

## Notices

### Scadding-Morrison Davies joint fellowship in respiratory medicine 1987

This fellowship is available to support visits to medical centres in the United Kingdom or abroad for the purpose of undertaking studies related to respiratory medicine. Medical graduates practising in the UK, including consultants, irrespective of the number of years in that grade, may apply. Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae together with a detailed account of the duration and nature of the proposed work and the centres to be visited, confirming that these have agreed to provide the facilities required, and giving the sum of money needed for travel and subsistence. A sum of up to £10 000 may be awarded to a successful applicant, or

the sum may be divided to support two or more applicants. Applications should be sent by 31 January 1987 to Dr KM Citron, (secretary for the fellowships), Brompton Hospital, London SW3 6HP

### World Congress on Oxygen Therapy and Home Care

A world congress on oxygen therapy and home care will be held at the Marriott Hotel, City Center, Denver, on 19-21 February 1987. The congress is being held under the auspices of the Webb-Waring Lung Institute and the American Association for Respiratory Care. The date for abstracts has already passed. Those interested in attending this meeting are invited to write to the Congress Secretariat at Webb-Waring Lung Institute, 4200 E Ninth Avenue Box C-321, Denver Colorado 80262, USA.