

tant emotions to harbor when making the diagnosis of transient synovitis of the hip" (page 53).

The book provides an excellent overview of pediatric orthopedics and can be read over the course of a month's rotation. It discusses a wide range of differential diagnoses along with their clinical clues. The section on congenital and related defects of the skeleton discusses talipes equinovarus as well as developmental dysplasia of the hip but may mention more syndromes than the average family physician wants to know. Descriptions of therapy are relatively brief and presume some general knowledge of injury management. This book does not instruct in casting or setting fractures. It does tell the physician when and how urgently the patient should be referred. Sometimes its orthopedic bias is evident, when, for example, the reader is told that serial radiographic examinations are "mandatory" every 6 months to determine whether a mild, idiopathic scoliosis curve is "static or progressive." Neither the use of a Scoliometer (Orthopedic Systems Inc, Hayward, Calif) nor the controversy surrounding the potential benefit of bracing moderate curves (between 20° and 40°) are mentioned. However, criteria for obtaining a magnetic resonance imaging scan in a patient with scoliosis are given (page 261).

The layout of the text deserves mention. At the beginning of each chapter is a mini-table of contents. For example, developmental orthopedics is divided into sections such as "Intoeing," "Bowleg," "Knock-knees (Genu Valgum)," "Flat Feet," and "Leg Length Discrepancies." Categories such as "Intoeing" are then further divided into subsections such as "Metatarsus Adductus," "Internal Tibial Torsion," and

"Femoral Anteversion." The text is complemented by a generous number of photographs and radiographs. The nonglossy paper makes the slightly small text easier to read but occasionally loses the fine details of the radiographs. The tables of physical findings and differential diagnoses are useful, but their type size is even smaller. References are not cited in the text but are presented in a bibliography preceding the index at the end of the book.

This book could also be used as a quick reference for identifying the important diagnostic and management issues to consider in evaluating a pediatric orthopedic problem. It does not substitute for a reference work that describes therapy and management in greater depth and detail. However, it admirably accomplishes its goal of being a work intended for primary care physicians.

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Breastfeeding: A Guide for the Medical Profession

4th ed, by Ruth A. Lawrence, 878 pp, with illus, \$46.95, ISBN 0-8016-6858-1, St Louis, Mo, Mosby-Year Book, 1994.

This is *the* textbook on breastfeeding. From that perspective, it is a good reference book for family physicians. However, it has its pluses and minuses.

On the plus side, the author has reviewed over 15 000 references and has provided the most comprehensive source of information available. This book is about the only source that summarizes information on breast-feeding infants with special medical problems, such as

cleft lip or palate or tracheoesophageal fistula. Induced lactation and re-lactation and cross-nursing are well covered. There is a chapter on human milk-banking. In addition, there are lists of information sources. There is also historic and cross-cultural information that provides interesting reading, but is of little use in my practice.

As a breast-feeding mother at the time of this writing, I was particularly interested in the sections on practical "how-to-do-it" breast-feeding. The information provided is a compilation of what I have learned from handouts, lactation consultants, and articles. Personally, I did not learn anything new. The research on actual breast-feeding problems and how to fix them must, apparently, be woefully lacking. One example of this is the dogma that breast-fed infants have many stools; I have seen several with few stools, and perceive this situation is not uncommon, but the old axiom continues to give many mothers fits (this section unfortunately had no references).

The recitation of the literature also left some sections without a good summary of the author's opinion of the implication of the previous research. It is not the most readable text, and some sections are particularly difficult to plod through.

Overall, the middle sections of the book on management of the mother-infant nursing couple, growth in the breast-fed infant, and maternal employment are most important to read and understand for the family physician. The remainder of the book would be used primarily as reference when specific questions arise.

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