as a medical consultant in private practice. He candidly recounts mistakes made early in his career that a book such as this would have helped prevent. The second half of his book contains some useful advice for physicians interested in serving as expert witnesses or institutional consultants.

Finally, Dr. Green challenges the reader to think “outside the box” and create new consulting opportunities: for example, becoming an expert on bioterrorism. Being alert for new and relatively uncrowded areas of infectious diseases serves to both stimulate the mind and provide a real service to the community.

Two areas of significance were not touched on in this book and deserve to be mentioned. First, involvement in organized medicine at the level of the county or state medical society can serve to increase professional visibility and offer opportunities to help the profession as a whole. Dr. Green wisely steers the reader away from hospital politics but neglects to mention some of the positive things that can come from professional societies and the work of local medical societies. Second, and perhaps more importantly, Dr. Green only briefly touches on the need to carve time for spouses and children out of a busy consultant’s life. Entrepreneurial activities are exciting and sometimes financially rewarding but require large time commitments. Too often I see consultants take time away from their spouses and children to pursue these activities. In the end, they become highly successful consultants but unhappy people.

With the exception of the caveats above, I highly recommend The Art of Medical Consulting to fellows and young subspecialists. The mistakes Dr. Green made early in his career were made by many of us, and his advice on how to avoid these pitfalls should be very helpful to young consultants. I plan to give a copy of this book to any new associate who joins my practice in the future.

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Conflict of interest. P.K.M: No conflict.

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Reemergence of Established Pathogens in the 21st Century

Edited by I. W. Fong and Karla Drlica

New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, 2003. 367 pp., illustrated. $139.50 (cloth).

Observations of the past 2 decades have demonstrated that infectious diseases have truly become moving targets. While some diseases such as polio have shown significantly decreased rates of infection worldwide, other diseases have, distressingly, shown higher rates of infection and have metamorphosed into new challenges.

This is the second book of a planned multivolume set, Emerging Infections of the 21st Century, edited by I. W. Fong and Karl Drlica. The first volume, Infection and the Cardiovascular System: New Perspectives, encompasses a review of microbial pathogens that potentially have roles in the pathophysiology of cardiovascular diseases. Further volumes are planned that will address such pathogens as: the agent of variant Creutzfeld-Jacob disease, Nipah virus, West Nile virus, and severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus.

This book, the newest volume in this series, addresses a panoply of pathogens—all of which are familiar to the practicing infectious diseases physician—that have been prominent problems in the past and now are reasserting themselves. An emphasis is placed on fairly common organisms that have disturbingly become resistant to many of the common anti-infective therapies. Included are antibiotic-resistant Staphylococcus pneumoniae, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, vancomycin-resistant Enterococci, and multiresistant Enterobacteraceae. Chapters on the resurgence of Bartonella infections and multidrug-resistant Mycobacterium tuberculosis are also included. An excellent review of severe Group A streptococcal infections is included; it outlines the pathogenesis and treatment of this unfortunately frequent life-threatening condition.

Bartonella infections were common in the early 20th century, specifically trench fever (caused by Bartonella quintana), which affected over a million individuals during World War I. Through the 20th century, more species of Bartonella were described, and by 2001, at least 7 species had been associated with human disease. Gelbert Greub and Didier Raoult describe in their chapters the phylogeny of these bacteria, as well as the molecular tools used for their discovery and characterization. Some of the disease states and their management are delineated.

Barbara Murray’s chapter on vancomycin-resistant Enterococci is especially noteworthy for its discussions on the molecular characterization of glycopeptide resistance, transmission, treatment, and infection control measures. An interesting section of the chapter also delves into the epidemiology of Vancomycin-resistant enterococci and particularly into the use of glycopeptides in animal feed in both Europe and the United States.

Drug-resistant malaria has earned a sizable chapter. The epidemiology of the resistant organism as well as purported mechanism of that resistance are discussed. The development of newer drugs and nondrug measures for malaria control are discussed somewhat briefly. I would like to have seen a more extensive discussion of the public health measures that may help control this parasite, as well as a more in-depth discussion of the controversies surrounding the use of DDT in the developing world.

Despite the quality of the material in this volume, it cannot be considered encyclopedic. Viral infections are conspicuously absent in this edition. Presumably, reemerging infections such as dengue fever and yellow fever will be addressed in future volumes in this series. The pathogens of smallpox, anthrax, tularemia, and other
potential biological weapons are not addressed either. A case could have been made for the inclusion of other bacterial pathogens we have seen reappearing during the late 20th century, specifically plague (in Surat, India), diphtheria (in Russia), and cholera (in Peru).

Each chapter contains a wealth of information organized in a concise form and a quite readable format. Practicing infectious disease specialists, microbiologists, and epidemiologists will find this book especially informative, but the content may be a bit advanced for the average medical student. The chapters are well referenced, providing direction for further research.

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