Books, computer software, audiovisual programs, and other material reviewed or briefly noted in this section have been selected for their probable interest to readers. Not all items submitted by publishers are necessarily represented here, but a listing of almost all items received can be found in the advertising pages of each issue. The "order phone" numbers can be used to place orders directly with publishers. A complete, cumulative listing of all items received for consideration for review can be found in "The Literature of Medicine" in "ACP Information," in the "Libraries" section of ACP Online, the CompuServe forum available to College members.

Medicine and Western Civilization
DJ Rothman, S Marcus, and SA Kiceluk; eds. 443 pages. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers Univ Pr; 1995. $22.95, paperback; $50.00, hardcover. ISBN 0-8135-2189-4. Order phone 800-446-9323.

Few medical schools in the United States teach the history of medicine—no wonder! Why should medical history have a place within their walls? It would take time away from the marvels of molecular biology and the complex modern technology used in diagnosis and treatment. Even the proponents of medical history would probably concede its irrelevance to today's curriculum if it were to focus, as it often has, primarily on persons, dates, and places. How would knowing who first described cretinism help treat thyroid disease today? How would grasping the concepts of yin and yang illuminate a diagnostic analysis of an arrhythmia?

The editors of this new anthology have found a curricular place for medical history. They do not see this history as a chronicle of persons, dates, and places marching in a parade through three or more millennia up to today's marvels. They see it as a series of pictures of how medicine has been molded in part by the society of its times and how medicine, in turn, has molded society. What is even more important is the editors' demonstration that the strains and stresses in human life today were strains and stresses through all of the known past. A fair conclusion is that seeing this larger picture of human life equips one to better see human life clearly today.

The editors make their case by presenting documents from the medical literature and the world's wider literature that together illustrate the sometimes differing, sometimes concurring perspectives of medicine and general society. The section titled "The Experimenters" includes Robert Koch's "The Aetiology of Tuberculosis," a picture of medicine seeing the causation of human disease. It is followed by an extended excerpt from the 1973 Senate hearings, "Quality of Health Care—Human Experimentation," a picture of society looking at medical research. "The Institutionalization of Doctors and Patients" includes, among other papers, Pinel's "The Clinical Training of Doctors," a view within the profession of how physicians should be trained to care for the ill, and Orwell's "How the Poor Die," a view of how one keen observer outside of the field of medicine saw the ill being cared for. Each document is prefaced with a short essay that describes the origin of the document and the importance it had in its time and place.

Perhaps the document that most vividly and concisely shows the persistence of human failings and, indirectly, the hope for solutions is William Blake's poem, "The Divine Image," which serves as a preface to the entire collection. Its last stanza says:

And all must love the human form,  
In heathen, Turk, or Jew;  
Where Mercy, Love, & Pity dwell,  
There God is dwelling too.  

Two hundred years later, this plea, this hope, still speaks sharply to human needs. Look at the Balkans, look at the Middle East. I cannot praise this collection too highly. The documents included are among the most absorbing reading I have done in many months. Fanny Burney's account of pain suffered in a lumpectomy done before anesthesia is hair-raising. Styron's re- 

life in print the despair of depression leads one to pray for never having to endure it. I believe that this is a book for all physicians, not just those in training. But will a place be made in more medical schools for history of this kind?

Edward J. Huth, MD  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA

The Secret(s) of Good Patient Care: Thoughts on Medicine in the 21st Century
WC Felch. 189 pages. Westport, CT: Praeger; 1996. $49.95. ISBN 0-275-95448-X. Order phone 203-226-3571.

Reflective, relaxed, perceptive essays on the patient-physician relationship, clinical procedures, medical education, the organization and economics of medical care, and public policy on medical benefits and services. These essays are fair-minded, are not ideologic, and carry a well-informed historical perspective. Through them runs Dr. Felch's uneasiness about what the medical profession has done to itself and its future. Although readers have heard many of these themes before, not many will have had the chance to read about them in prose as direct and clear as that provided here. Be aware that this book is more about the second than the first half of its title. The price is stiff for a book of such modest dimensions.

Rheumatology

Practical Rheumatology
John H. Klippel and Paul A. Dieppe; eds. 432 pages. St. Louis: Mosby; 1995. $59.95. ISBN 07234-2429-2. Order phone 800-426-4545.

Practical Rheumatology is addressed to internists and primary care and general physicians. It is a "direct derivative" of a reference text, Rheumatology, which was designed for specialists and trainees with a particular commitment to musculoskeletal disorders. Rheumatology totaled 1766 pages; Practical Rheumatology totals 432. The content of the latter is suggested by its title: practical, everyday, accurate advice for immediate "use at
the bedside.” However, its cumbersome size and weight would make it awkward at the bedside and presumably in the office.

Three other books are on the market: Clinical Rheumatology, by Ball and Koopman (WB Saunders, 1986); Clinical Rheumatology: A Problem-Oriented Approach, by Moskowitz (Lea & Febiger, 1975); and Clinical Rheumatology, by Mason and Currey (JB Lippincott, 1970). Practical Rheumatology certainly is up-to-date and clearly addresses the specific clinical problems that generalists, internists, and family physicians encounter. An orderly presentation of anatomic areas in which symptoms and signs occur is found throughout, and all of the usual and common diseases are included. Samples of English usage at intervals of 30 to 40 pages did not turn up poor writing.

Chapter 2, “Signs and Symptoms,” is an exceedingly well-done evaluation of musculoskeletal symptoms. It is presented in lean, clean English and is beautifully illustrated—a joy to read. The book is extensively and expertly illustrated (often in color) and includes many useful and practical tables, listings, and clinically effective references. Because of the book’s size and weight (13 x 25 cm; 5 lbs), I needed a book rack to use it handily. The paper is of the highest quality—slick and thick. I would vote for less expensive paper and a consequently lower price for future editions.

I searched for some mention of Wolff’s Law and related topics—such as the consequences of immobilization in joint and connective tissue structures, the proprioceptive nervous system, stretching, activating functional position sense—and found nothing in the index or the text. These factors are, in my opinion, of great importance in the optimal management of rheumatic diseases, and the price is right for a discussion of these management techniques.

I tested the index by seeking references that interested me and looked for population, viscosity, reversibility, capsule, physiologic, laxity, and hyaluronate. Six of them were listed.

In the balance, the overall quality of the presentation, the practical and clinically useful chapters, the superb illustrations, the effective tables, and the clinical summaries outweigh the defects of this text. Practical Rheumatology is the only recent book on the market that addresses diagnosis, study, and management of musculoskeletal diseases for the designated audience, and I recommend it.

John H. Bland, MD
University of Vermont
Burlington, VT 05405

The Problem Knee
2nd edition. Malcolm F. Macnicol. 215 pages. Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann; 1995. $55.00. ISBN 0-7506-0487-5. Order phone 800-366-2665.

I agree that “the knee is a complex and crucial joint,” but I disagree with the author that “it is as easily injured during daily rounds as in competitive sports, industrial accidents, or collisions.” In the opening paragraph of the preface to this book, Professor Macnicol states that “whether the inextricable mix of synovitis, torn ligament or meniscus, and osteochondral damage can be teased apart may depend upon the encounter and investigative skills of the surgeon . . .” But in this short book, he emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive history and examination, conventional radiographs, and use of basic principles in managing the “problem knee.” In the 9 years since the first edition of this book was published, magnetic resonance imaging and computed tomography have been widely introduced, and arthroscopy has become commonly used. However, these methods are only briefly touched on in this monograph.

The first chapter includes a description of the relevant anatomy with excellent line drawings and pithy discussions of symptoms and signs, including pain, loss of movement, swelling, and locking and instability of the knee; the influence of such factors as the personality and age of the individual patient is also discussed.

The book’s content is presented in 10 chapters that cover methods of clinical examinations, pediatric injuries, ligamentous and meniscal lesions, patellofemoral problems, and fractures around the knee. A chapter entitled “Non-traumatic Conditions” covers such conditions as inflammatory arthritis, hemophilia, osteonecrosis, and tumors; but, inextricably (to use one of the author’s favorite words), rheumatoid arthritis gets short shrift, and osteoarthritis is ignored. The final chapter discusses the treatment of soft tissue injuries and includes a brief section on knee bracing and physical therapy. Exercise is barely mentioned.

The Problem Knee has a glossary and an appendix that lists knee rating systems and assessment of function. I am usually fond of glossaries, but the author seems to have lost control of his vocabulary, but portions of it may be of interest to the physiatrist, physical therapist, orthopedic technician, and orthopedic resident.

David H. Neustadt, MD
University of Louisville School of Medicine
Louisville, KY 40202

Silent Pains: Is It Arthritis? Reflections of a Clinical Rheumatologist
WE Byrd. 215 pages. Lawrenceville, VA: Brunswick Publishing; 1995. $22.50. ISBN 1-55618-155-8. Order phone 800-336-7154.

A narrative and anecdotal exposition for the general public on the types of arthritic disease, how they affect patients, and what can be done about them.

Osteoporosis: Etiology, Diagnosis, and Management
2nd edition. BL Riggs and LJ Melton; eds. 542 pages. New York: Lippincott–Raven; 1995. $125.00. ISBN 0-7817-0275-5. Order phone 800-777-2295.

A detailed, well-documented text covering the causes of osteoporosis (both primary and secondary), its clinical presentation, relevant diagnostic considerations and methods, and care—preventive care, drug therapy, and rehabilitation. The authors are an eminent group of experts in this field.