

BOOK REVIEWS

Teaching and Learning in Primary Care

Richard Hays

Radcliffe Publishing 2005, 144 pages, £21.95/\$39.95, (ISBN 1 85775 756 4)

This paperback is the second edition of a companion guide for primary care teachers written by Richard Hays, Professor of Medical Education and head of the medical school at Keele University. Its pages are crammed with the fundamental principles and processes of practice-based teaching, which do not presuppose any former knowledge of general practice. As such, the book travels well from the author's academic origins in rural medical practice in Australia to primary care in the UK.

Clinicians with aspirations to become teachers are taken on a journey from curriculum development to assessment of learning. Each chapter is well referenced (self-citation being perhaps an inevitable consequence of writing more than 100 scientific papers) and illustrated by many examples of how educational supervisors can adopt

different roles and techniques to release the full 'power' of teaching. The range covers simple observation to video recording of the consultation, review of medical records, structured teaching in tutorials including discussion of significant event analysis, audit, practice-based learning and documentation of learning.

Placed in a Scottish context, this book will be of benefit to GP registrar trainers, associate advisers, appraisers and managers involved in establishing protected learning time schemes. It will also be a valuable asset to GPs and practice teams wanting to understand what is sometimes perceived to be a 'galaxy' of educational jargon.

*Dr Jill Murie, General Practitioner
Lanark*

Your First ENT Job

Marie Lyons, Arvind Singh

Radcliffe Publishing 2005, 128pages, £19.95, (ISBN 1-85775-748-3)

Your first day as a junior doctor on-call for a new specialty is always daunting. This book should be a great confidence booster for doctors on-call or cross-covering ENT for the first time. Written by two ENT trainees who obviously remember their first days in ENT very well, it is clearly set out, easy to read, practical and reasonably comprehensive.

There are one or two conditions that I would like to see treated differently (more up to date, perhaps) but I am just being picky - in fact, a doctor who starts out doing what is described in this book will not go far wrong. With time, they may well learn better ways to do things. Of course, there is no substitute for actually doing the job, or for being taught by a more senior colleague, and most doctors will find the book becomes redundant anyway after only a few weeks as they gain confidence and experience.

That is not a criticism, but it reflects the fact that the book was written with a finite lifespan built-in.

Changes to training in the UK mean that it is becoming more common for senior doctors to be on call at night with very inexperienced juniors, perhaps cross-covering whilst working in a different specialty and often with little or no previous relevant experience. It would not be a bad idea for ENT departments to buy a few copies of this book to hand out to their new recruits - a few pounds spent could well translate into fewer sleepless nights for the consultants!

*Mr H Kubba, Consultant ENT Surgeon, Royal Hospital for Sick
Children, Yorkhill, Glasgow*