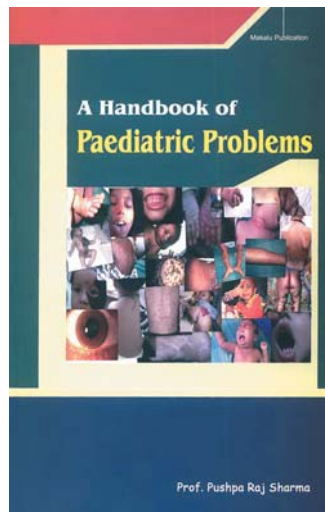


Book Review



A Handbook of Paediatric Problems

Prof. Pushpa Raj Sharma

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Pages: 724 Price: Rs. 500/-

Prof. Pushpa Raj must be congratulated for bringing out this book which will go a long way towards meeting the needs of education in Child Health of the various grades of health workers in Nepal. Rather than a handbook it is a valuable 'tome' for both undergraduate and postgraduate medical and nursing students. This book, divided into 24 chapters starts with the 'Taking of a paediatric history' and ends with a chapter on paediatric drug dosages. The acknowledgement of sources in the bibliography and the comprehensive index will be very helpful to the discerning readers.

Starting with growth and development the book deals with adolescent health. This is very timely for not much has been written about the problems of the teenagers. The average 12-14 year olds feel out of place in both the children's and adult wards. Then there are the problems of the search for identity, the cravings to explore, sex, drugs and substance abuse, which seem to be a part of modern day living. Genetics, Chromosome Disorders and Neonatology which will play a major role in bringing down mortality in our children in the future,

now that infectious diseases are not the major killers, are also discussed. Malignancies have been rightly given some importance as we will diagnose these more in the future. However the fact that infectious diseases and preventive paediatrics have been left right to the end of the book should not create the impression in the student's mind that these are not important in the Nepali context.

In short, one can state that this book is 'tailor made' for the medical and nursing students in Nepal. The reproduction of X-rays and CT scan film is very poor and has to be improved in the next edition. One must draw the attention of the author that the present technology does allow even for colour printing at reasonable costs. Hopefully the next edition of this book will cater to rectify these drawbacks.

Finally the blurb on the back cover states that 'it is a treasure trove of must know information'. Any student knowing the contents of this handbook should easily pass his 'finals' in paediatrics with ease!

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