

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS AND AUDIOVISUAL AIDS

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Review Editor

### Common Facial Dermatoses, by Ronald Marks. John Wright & Sons, Ltd., 1976.

This minitext book contains 130 pages, 10 chapters and 80 figures describing common disorders of the facial skin. Some not too common conditions are included for completeness. Most of the first half deals with rosacea and acne, conditions which have interested the author for many years, and towards whose understanding he has made many significant original contributions. These chapters naturally represent the choicest morsels for the reader. In this section a number of hallowed myths relating to rosacea such as its causal association with dietary indiscretion and/or overt gastrointestinal pathology are cogently laid to rest.

Single chapters are devoted to dermatitis of the face, lupus erythematosus and dermatomyositis, the face and sunlight, infections and tumors of the facial skin and a final chapter on miscellaneous, granulomatous and ulcerative conditions. This book is easy reading and is loaded with information in an easily accessible form. Although very little of it is new most is current, however, I found few references later than 1974-75. (This is the bane of all new medical books since by their very nature there is 6 to 12 months of built in obsolescence at the time of publication.) Some recent controversies such as the one challenging the role of free fatty acids in producing inflammation in acne are naturally not included.

One feature which many will find annoying but can be easily corrected in subsequent editions, is that all the figures are in the first part of the book. This is inconvenient for the reader who must constantly turn back to find the figure referenced in the text.

Most of the clinical photographs are very good and many are in color. The photomicrographs are clear and demonstrate the pathology well. Figure 8 contains 4 drawings which crisply depict the distribution of 4 facial rashes. This is a very effective teaching aid which unfortunately was not used more extensively.

This book should prove to be a valuable reference source for clinicians who will probably want to keep a copy handy at the office, and an excellent introductory text for medical students and residents interested in facial dermatoses. I look for-

ward to subsequent editions which with minor revisions should prove to be a classic dermatologic text.

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### Fortschritte der praktischen Dermatologie und Venerologie (Vol. 8), O. Braun-Falco and S. Marghescu (eds.) Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1976. (469 pp; \$37.80)

The book contains the proceedings of the eighth postgraduate course in practical dermatology and venerology held at the Department of Dermatology, University of Munich, July 26-30, 1976.

The 54 contributions cover a broad spectrum of pertinent topics of dermatologic diagnosis and management including phlebology, andrology and anorectal diseases, but some subjects, e.g., connective tissue diseases are discussed only marginally. The book closes with an excellent update of current trends in dermatological research given by Braun-Falco focusing on its relevance for practical dermatology.

Since the volume contains contributions of a heterogenous group of authors the quality of the lectures varies to some degree; a number of contributions bear perhaps too strong an imprint of the personal opinion and preferences of the respective authors and this is also reflected by the selection of the references. In general, however, the quality of the volume is high. The book represents a well-edited digest primarily intended for those physicians who have little opportunity to keep abreast with the current literature.

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### Melanomas—Basic Properties in Clinical Behaviour: Proceedings of the Ninth International Pigment Cell Conference, Houston, Texas, 1975, Part 1.

Pigment cell conferences have certainly come of age. From the contour of the early meetings in the United States, 30 years ago this recent meeting in Houston contains articles from many of the prominent artists in the International affairs of melanogenesis and melanoma. This volume is a

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