

BOOK REVIEWS

A Textbook of Clinical Pharmacology, 4th Edition, edited by J.M. Ritter, L.D. Lewis and T.G.K. Mant. Edward Arnold, London, 1999. 687 pp, softcover. Price: £32. ISBN 0-340-70593-0.

This extensively revised edition with the addition of new chapters on drugs and the eye, biotechnology and gene therapy, is a complete text for undergraduate medical students, and is also useful for revision or reference by postgraduates and prescribing physicians. Each chapter concludes with key points, suggestions for further reading, and an illustrative case history. Part I contains 16 chapters on general principles, including pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, drug disposition and drug interactions. Parts II-XIII are system based, concluding with Part XIV on drug and alcohol abuse, and drug overdose and poisoning.

PharmaMed CD-ROM. medpharm Scientific Publishers, Stuttgart, 2000.

This bilingual (German and English) CD-ROM offers a selection of databases with regular updates, with the subscription price depending on how many databases one wants accessible. So far, only **Index Nominum** and **Phaddex** are available in English. **Index Nominum** is the world-wide directory of drugs, trademarks, synonyms and therapeutic classes of single compound preparations used in medicine. One can search for the drug name, therapeutic use, chemical name, etc. **Phaddex** contains a database of addresses of pharmaceutical manufacturers all over the world. There are additional databases available in German only - pharmaceutical substances, Austria codex, drug profiles, OTC medications, monographs, new drugs, etc.

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