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Book Review

Treatment-Induced Respiratory Disorders (Drug-Induced Disorders, Volume 3)

G.M. Akoun and J.P. White (Eds.)

Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam and New York, 1989, 392 pp.; ISBN 0-444-81071-4. Price US\$ 184.25/Dfl 350.

This book comprises 27 chapters written by 41 contributors, 20 of whom are French. The book has been very unevenly edited and the chapters vary greatly in their thoroughness of reviewing the literature. Evidence of this uneven editing can be illustrated by the fact that one chapter has no references, two chapters less than 10 references, four chapters between 10 and 20 references, eight chapters between 21 and 50 references, six chapters between 51 and 100 references, five chapters between 101 and 200 references and one chapter with 229 references. Shortage of numbers in a reference list is not necessarily a criterion for criticism but when major references are omitted that are cited in other general treatises on iatrogenic illness such as Meyler's *Side Effects of Drugs*, Ed. by M.N.G. Dukes, *Adverse Drug Reactions* 3rd Edition, Ed. by D.M. Davies or *Iatrogenic Diseases* 3rd Edition, Ed. by P.F. D'Arcy and J.P. Griffin, one really has to query whether a book on drug-induced injury devoted to a single organ, the lung, is fulfilling a useful role.

Some chapters in this book, however, are comprehensive and valuable and it is a pity that the

editors, or the general series editor. Dr. Dukes, have not ensured an evenness of quality that matched the better chapters which are very good; for example, the reviews of drug-induced asthma and bronchospasm by Szczeklik and Nizankowska from Cracow, Poland and pneumonitis induced by cytotoxic drugs by Cooper and Matthay from Alabama and Yale, respectively.

Some chapters dealing with the pathophysiology of drug-induced lung disease are not very impressive. However, there are included chapters which deal with problems often omitted from books on iatrogenic disease, e.g., haemodialysis-induced respiratory distress; respiratory disorders induced by bone marrow transplantation and lung injury induced by acupuncture, which add value to the publication.

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