

BOOK REVIEWS

PEDIATRIC OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY HEAD AND NECK SURGERY*Chris de Souza, James Stankiewicz and Phillip K. Pelletteri (Editors)*

Volume I Otology and Rhinology 459 pages, Volume II Head and Neck 274 pages, black and white illustrations. Singular Publishing Group Inc., San Diego, London, 1999 (ISBN 1-50593-958-1).

The goal of this two-volume textbook is to provide a practical, comprehensive reference for physicians and surgeons who deal with disorders of the head and neck in children. The editors have recruited as contributors to the book an international faculty of clinicians from both adult and pediatric practice.

In general, the editors have reached their goal and have produced a comprehensive textbook that is practical, well written and well illustrated. However, with so many contributors from so many different backgrounds, overlap between chapters is inevitable and the scientific and instructive level of the various chapters varies considerably.

The chapters on embryology and anatomy, physiology and examination in the Otology Section are short and rather superficial and seem to be intended for undergraduates rather than those training for or practising in Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology. The techniques of hearing assessment which are specific to children are only briefly discussed. The chapters on otitis media and ventilation tubes provide little new information. New developments, like vaccines for acute otitis media, are missing, and references to essential recent European papers on the treatment of

otitis media with effusion are lacking. In contrast, chapters like those on temporal bone imaging and otologic skull base surgery are informative and beautifully illustrated. Likewise, the very practical and up to date perspective on pediatric sinus surgery by Stankiewicz in the Rhinology Section partly compensates for the less informative and innovating chapter on sinusitis. The Head and Neck Section contains excellent chapters on infections of the upper and lower airways and of the head and neck and a comprehensive overview on the management of recurrent respiratory papillomatosis. Little information, however, is given on the management of cleft lip and palate, subglottic stenosis, and hemangioma of the head and neck.

Overall, because of the disparities between the chapters (like in many textbooks of this type), this is a reference book which I would recommend more to trainees and to non-specialist physicians with an interest in Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology than to those with more experience in the area.

A.G.M. Schilder

ASIAN RHINOLOGICAL PRACTICE*Bunnag and Muntarbhorn (Editors)*

Tekst 368 pages, black and white illustrations. Publisher: ASEAN Rhinology Group, Bangkok, Thailand, 1997 (ISBN 974-588-974-4)

In 1994 during the 6th ASEAN Otorhinolaryngological Head and Neck Congress in Chiang Rai, Thailand, members who had a particular interest in rhinology formed the ASEAN Rhinology Group with a view promoting and fostering scientific exchange and co-operation amongst the ASEAN countries. To that end, this book has been developed, not as a standard textbook on rhinology but to consider in some detail selected rhinology topics. The book is divided into 38 chapters which are broadly split into allergy, polyps and tumours, sinusitis, investigations, olfaction, sinus and rhinologic surgery. The authors of the chapters are predominantly from the ASEAN countries but also include a number of Europeans and Japanese. The topics chosen are to some

extent tailored to the needs of the geographical area, for example, aero-allergens in Thailand or nasopharyngeal carcinoma in children, but also includes some good chapters on important general topics such as the acute complications of bacterial sinusitis, the main investigative techniques and the full range of endoscopic surgery and its extended applications. The book is somewhat let down by the quality of the figures but nonetheless contains chapters that would be of interest to anyone with an interest in the nose and sinuses.

V.J. Lund