



## BOOK REVIEWS

## The WHO Manual of Diagnostic Imaging. Radiographic Technique and Projections

By Staffan Sandström, Edited by Harald Ostensen and Holger Pettersson. Pp. iv + 129. Illustrated. Sw.fr.40./US\$36. WHO. 2003. ISBN 92-4-154608-5. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R330, members R310.)

This book is the successor to the *Manual of Radiographic Technique* edited by T Holm, PES Palmer and E Lehtinen for the World Health Organization (WHO) and is acknowledged as such in the preface by the author. The original volume was intended as a manual for users of the BRS (Basic Radiological System) which was designed for use by people who had had no formal training as radiographers but performed radiography in the rural areas of Africa and other countries.

This edition has also been written as a guide to radiographic technique when using the BRS, which is a dedicated X-ray machine with the tube and cassette holder permanently attached at 90 degrees to each other at a SID of 40 cm. The whole unit can rotate through 90 degrees and comes with a radiolucent mobile table thus allowing supine and erect radiography. The book is well laid out and easy to follow with a different chapter covering each different region of the body e.g. chest, head, upper limb, etc.

For each region, basic standard projections are demonstrated by means of colourful pictures showing patient positioning, area to be examined, the size of film, and centring point. Suitable exposure factors are given as well as an example of the end-result radiograph. Each projection with all its data is contained on a single page.

This is really a 'point-and-shoot' book designed to help the least experienced person image patients successfully provided that the dedicated BRS X-ray unit is used. However I feel that the really inexperienced person, whether trained or not, might find it difficult to adapt the techniques and exposures to standard bucky table use.

From my experience, both the junior radiographer and student have difficulty working out exposures in any system and therefore, giving examples of two different speed and colour systems together will cause confusion. A further difficulty is the non-standard SID used.

The basic principles are well demonstrated but there is not enough detail for this to be used as a textbook. It would, however, be very useful as a reference book for community service radiographers or hospitals in the rural areas where only very basic radiography is performed.

The final chapter on technical background comprises a potpourri of complex information ranging from image quality,

quality assurance physics and more exposure factors, all of which are not at the level of person targeted in this volume.

In summary, this is a fine book to be used with the dedicated BRS but has limited use for general radiography except in the areas previously mentioned.

Gillan Bowie

## Books Received

*The receipt of these books is acknowledged, and this listing must be regarded as sufficient return for the courtesy of the sender. Books that appear to be of particular interest will be reviewed as space permits. The SAMJ does not publish unsolicited reviews.*

### Tobacco Control Legislation. An Introductory Guide.

Second edition. WHO. Pp. x + 293. Sw.fr.90./US\$81. WHO. 2004. ISBN 92-4-156268-4. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R835, members R775.)

### Health and Health Care in South Africa.

Edited by HCJ van Rensburg. Pp. xxx + 626. R399.95. Van Schaik Publishers. 2004. ISBN 0-627-02563-3. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R399.95, members R365.)

### Prevention of Recurrent Heart Attacks and Strokes in Low and Middle Income Populations. Evidence-based Recommendations for Policy Makers and Health Professionals.

WHO. Pp. vii + 99. Sw.fr.40./US\$36. WHO. 2003. ISBN 92-4-156258-7. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R370, members R345.)

### Guidelines for the Inpatient Treatment of Severely Malnourished Children.

WHO. Pp. 48. Sw.fr.10./US\$9. WHO. 2003. ISBN 92-4-154609-3. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R99, members R90.)

### The Cape Doctor in the Nineteenth Century. A Social History.

Edited by Harriet Deacon, Howard Phillips and Elizabeth van Heyningen. Pp. 318. Illustrated. EU35/US\$44. Rodopi. 2004. ISBN 90-420-1064-9. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R455, members R425.)

### TB/HIV A Clinical Manual.

WHO. Second edition. Pp. 208. Sw.fr.15./US\$13.50. WHO. 2004. ISBN 92-4-154634-4. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R140, members R125.)

### ABC of Sexual Health.

Edited by John Tomlinson. Pp. VIII + 61. Illustrated. £15.95. BMJ Books. 1999. ISBN 0-7279-1373-5. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R275, members R250.)

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