

BOOK REVIEW

Advanced Dermatologic Therapy II by Walter B. Shelley and E. Dorinda Shelley-. Hardcover. 1,290 pages. ISBN 0-7216-8258-8. Price £170. WB Saunders Company, 2001.

In the preface to their book, Walter Shelley and Dorinda Shelley make it clear that this is *not* a second edition of their 1987 *Advanced Dermatologic Therapy* but a totally new volume and a fresh source of new ideas that they call “venture therapy”. This book represents a new concept of how to write a didactic book on advanced therapy that is flavoured with the authors’ exquisite command of the English language and fun to read from beginning to end. It offers many excellent ideas and good advice on how we can help the patient as a whole, as well as treating the skin. The patients of today also seek information about their disease and about the effects and side effects of their medication. The first 11 pages, “Thoughts on Our Way to the Clinic” are focused on these essential issues and are worth reading repeatedly. The importance of simple politeness is pointed out; for example “Greet your patients by name, shake hands, smile, sit down and listen”. The frontispiece by Arcimboldo and the lost skin on page 1,217 can help you with the smile.

The 1,200 pages in between have 278 dermatological diagnoses listed in alphabetical order at the top of each page, which makes it easy to find the disorders you want to treat. The possible treatments are listed on a blue background immediately below the name of the disease. Thereafter, the references appear with comments, where the drugs recommended are written in bold type in order to catch the eye. Selected therapeutic notes from the authors’ diary, published over 5 years in CUTIS, are reprinted in italics to distinguish them from journal abstracts by other authors. Excellent colour photographs, taken by Dorinda Shelley, illustrate several disorders. The 60-page index lists all the drugs and treatments recommended. Under each of them you will find the diseases for which they have been used. The names of the disorders are also indexed, with subtitles making it easy to find what you are looking for.

With this excellent book in your office, you can really enjoy practising dermatology, knowing that you have an update on the best possible treatments. The authors have an exceptional knowledge of dermatological treatment and are indeed to be congratulated on this masterpiece—their wonderful 7 lb baby!

*Lennart Juhlin,
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