

Book Review

Terror and Medicine

Medical aspects of Biological, Chemical and Radiological Terrorism

Edited by Joshua Shemer & Yehuda Shoenfeld

Pages 564, Price: 30, -Euro/US\$

Armed struggle by freedom fighters in various parts of the world by some which is called terrorism by others has suddenly seen an increase in its intensity all over the world. The result is loss of precious lives while thousands are injured badly some of who are crippled for the rest of their life. After the events, which took place on 9/11 in United States, the world has realized that terrorism has no limits, no borders and no humanity. Israel, which has been facing such a situation now for quite some time, has gained lot of experience in handling such emergencies and the healthcare professionals in Israel have also documented their experiences by contributing on different aspects to the medical literature. Prof. Joshua Shemer and Prof. Yehuda Shoenfeld who have authored numerous books and have contributed a great deal to the medical literature has now come up with this most useful book on the subject of Terror and Medicine.

Israel Medical Association Journal carried numerous write-ups on this subject during July 2002 in the light of extensive experience, which was accumulated in Israel while confronting such a situation. Then the healthcare professionals felt the need to have broader information on this subject, which has assumed much importance after the recent events, which took place in USA, Kenya, Australia, Britain, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia etc. All this laid the foundation for this book. All the contributors to the book are distinguished personalities in their respective fields of biological, chemical and radiological warfare. As stated in the Preface the Editors accomplished this task of writing this book as a mission, " an ethical and moral

obligation to enlighten individuals and institutions on the basis of their experience, medically preparing for and handling the aftermath of such tragedies." The book covers in detail policies and doctrines of Non-Conventional Warfare, Chemical, Biological and Radiological Terror, Chemical agents, Biological Agents, radiological terrorism, Veterinary Medicine, Trauma, Rehabilitation of victims of Terror besides its Psychological Aspects. Some of the important topics covered include Terror and Medicine- The challenge, From Geneva to Afghanistan: The ethical implications of Terror and its Effect on the Physician, Historical aspects of Non-Conventional Terrorism, Medical Management of Terrorist Attacks, Hospital management of a bioterror event, Medical Guidelines for the management of Meta-Terror, Personal protection against Chemical and Biological Warfare Agents, Training of medical personnel to treat casualties of nuclear, biological or chemical warfare, planning health services for chemical terrorist attack, The Tokyo Subway Sarin Attack, Mustard Gas – clinical implications and management, Simulation based training of medical teams to manage chemical warfare casualties, Detection and clinical identification of biological weapons attack, Tetracycline and Ciprofloxacin as Treatment for Children and pregnant or lactating women in biological terror events, An overview of Anthrax, Smallpox – a possible comeback, Hemorrhagic Fevers and Bioterror, Preparedness for mass casualty situation- the key to success, Epidemiology of Terror, The role of imaging in terror attacks, Surgeon's view about suicide bombings, Acute lung injuries among survivors of suicide bomb attacks, Terror and War burns, Forensic pathology of Terrorism, otologic manifestations of blast injury, prevention programme against biological warfare etc.

This book aims to provide pragmatic

knowledge, useful guidance and practical experience, which is not to be found in any of the textbooks. It brings the subjects of preparedness for non-conventional and conventional terror to a focused practical dimension. The authors in the book have cooperated in an endeavour to share their experience with the healthcare professionals all over the world. The new reality must be handled with care and nations all over the world must be prepared to face the consequences of such attacks by establishing an infrastructure of the medical community to face conventional and non-conventional attacks. Healthcare professionals must prepare for the unthinkable, unexpected and learn from the earlier experience. Contributors in the book which are drawn from numerous disciplines of medicine i.e. epidemiology, chemical, biological and radiological research, veterinary science, medical training and management, public health, radiology, trauma, surgery, psychology and psychiatry, rehabilitation pathology and ethics have done a commendable job by recording their experience to handle this new multifaceted dilemma. This book will prove to be a useful addition to any medical library while the healthcare professionals will find it highly informative to update them on how to face the new emerging situation. It will also be very useful for the health planners and government agencies to make arrangements on how to deal with such an emergency in case of a biological, chemical terrorist attack.

The book is published by PABST Science Publishers. For further enquiries contact E-mail: pabst.publishers@t-online.de. SAJ

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A colour Atlas of Surgical Diagnosis by Prof. Asif Zafar FRCS

Produced by Biographics,
Page 132, Price not mentioned

We have many great names in the field of medicine and surgery but how many of them had the ability or thought of contributing to academics. Most of them have nothing to be proud off as far as academic medicine is con-

cerned. To write or author a book one has to read a lot and also be exceptionally good in record keeping so as to preserve important things. Prof. Asif Zafar FRCS, Professor of Surgery at Rawalpindi Medical College is one of those few talented, energetic young surgeons of Pakistan who are determined to leave their footprints in their field of specialization. He has just managed to do this and the result is a colour atlas of surgical diagnosis. This 132-page book, which contains over four hundred colour photographs, offers a wide-ranging look on innumerable diseases, which surgeons with clinical sharp eyes can see and encounter during their professional career. As pointed out by Prof. Syed Tahir Ahmed Shah, Prof. of Surgery at KEMC in the Foreword, "it will be extremely useful not only for undergraduate medical students as an introduction to clinical scenario but will also serve as a quick and beneficial reference work for post graduates."

In the present day our medical colleges have too many students in a class and in the Wards there are too many postgraduate trainees. The relevant clinical material is most often not available for every one. Hence in order to overcome this problem, teachers and trainers usually rely on slides of various clinical manifestations during their training sessions. This book under review is a personal collection of the author of clinical material, which he came across during his fifteen years teaching experience at different teaching hospitals in Rawalpindi. As pointed out by the author himself in the preface, "this Atlas is meant to illustrate clinical features of surgical diseases. It is not at all designed as a textbook of surgery but it should be used in conjunction with standard surgical books." Apart from his personal collection, the author has acknowledged the contribution of various slides provided by Dr. Azam Yousuf, Associate Professor of Surgery at Rawalpindi Medical College, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Manzoor Ahmed and Dr. Zubair Hassan Medical Supdt. of DHQ Hospital Rawalpindi.

The book has been divided into twelve chapters. The first chapter deals with skin

lesions, skin and soft tissue infections besides infections in diabetics. It has some very interesting photographs of malignant lesions of the skin. The second chapter is devoted to Ulcers. It covers specific, non-specific and malignant ulcers, benign lumps, skin and soft tissue lumps, benign and malignant tumours. Peripheral Vascular Disorders including venous disorders, lymphoedema again with some rare slides are covered in chapter four. Diseases of salivary glands figure in Chapter five while Chapter six deals with diseases of Face, oral cavity and tongue. There are separate chapters on diseases of neck, thyroid and thyroglossal tract and parathyroid adenoma. Breast cancer is one of the commonest malignancies among female and this has been covered in Chapter ten. It includes slides of congenital anomalies, benign breast disease, carcinoma of breast, advanced fungating breast cancer, recurrent breast cancer including some rare tumours, male breast disorders and carcinoma of the male breast. Diseases of abdominal wall covered in this atlas include hernias including inguinal and femoral hernias. The last chapter in the Atlas covers diseases of male external genitalia i.e. diseases of penis, trauma to the genitalias, scrotal swellings and undescended testis. An important aspect of this Atlas is that information in most of these slides has been supplemented by highlighting key points, which are of clinical significance. The quality of paper used for the Atlas is good. Printing, binding and the reproduction of colour slides are excellent which will definitely enhance its value. While the medical students

and postgraduate trainees will find it extremely useful as an introduction to the specialty of surgery, even surgeons can also refresh their knowledge by having a look at the local pathology which also highlights the diseases pattern mostly seen in this part of the world. This colour atlas of surgical diagnosis will prove to be an invaluable asset to enrich the treasure of any medical library or personal collections.

Prof Asif Zafar has dedicated this book to his wife and children besides his teachers the noted surgeons like Prof. H. H. Mirza, Rashid Qureshi and Syed Tahir Ahmad Shah. This is also a rare quality seen among today's healthcare professionals who still have regards for their teachers and seniors and remember them with good words. As pointed out earlier, Prof. Asif Zafar belongs to this small tribe of healthcare professionals in Pakistan who are our unsung heroes. They not only believe but also practice ethical medicine. It is the professional satisfaction which keeps such people moving otherwise we as a Nation has a track record of ignoring our talent and merit while selecting people for awards and distributing *Chand Sitarey*. Prof. Asif Zafar and his other colleagues in different teaching institutions who are mindful of their responsibilities to the future generation of doctors and are busy in making their contributions to academic medicine in different forms deserve our thanks and admiration. For availability of the book contact: E. mail: surgicalatlas@telmedpak.com

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