Book Review

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Dermatology in Internal Medicine

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With this book, written for students and trainees in Dermatology the author intends to discuss the etiopathogenesis of several dermatoses and especially of those seen in patients with internal diseases. For that reason most of his attention is paid to the pathomechanism of skin diseases and less to their clinical aspect and morphology.

The first chapter is devoted to the structure and function of the skin and the second one to a group of various common dermatoses such as psoriasis, eczema, acne, lichen planus, ichthyosis, basal cell epithelioma, squamous cell carcinoma, and urticaria. In the next chapter the interrelationship between systemic and skin diseases is discussed. Pruritus, disorders of melanin pigmentation and of hair, nails and sweat glands are described together. A special study is made of skin and gastrointestinal, liver and kidney disorders and also of the cutaneous signs of endocrine diseases, and of metabolic diseases affecting the skin. Under the name 'vasculitis' several entities are grouped, the nature and evolution of which barely allows such a classification, e.g., purpura, lichen sclerosus et atrophicus, connective tissue dysgenesis, disseminated intravascular coagulation, leukocytoclastic angiitis, vasculitis (erythema nodosum, erythema induratum, forms of nodular vasculitis), granulomatous vasculitis, and collagenoses. In the last chapters drug eruptions, cutaneous sarcoidoses, developmental syndromes, bullous dermatoses and lesions in malignant tumors are discussed.

Although it is suggested by the title that the book studies especially skin lesions in internal medicine, the content is more general. Despite the small volume of the book, the most important features of a lot of dermatoses are described. The author does, however, not limit himself to the morphology of skin diseases but gets the reader to think about the symptoms, their pathomechanisms and their influence on the whole of the organism.

In discussing that many dermatoses, the author has taken the opportunity to put forward his personal views on several subjects, e.g., some aspects of the function of the skin, atopic eczema, the effect of skin disease on the mind, dermatitis herpetiformis and celiac disease, vasculitis, etc. Even when one cannot agree with all of the author's opinions, the book is very stimulating, and, therefore, useful for medical students, trainees in dermatology and even dermatologists.

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