Book Review


“Pharmacology for physiotherapist” is aimed at a unique target where the students of the faculty need only to attend lectures on pharmacology and their knowledge is not assessed with conventional theory examinations and viva voce.

The critical evaluation of the book reveals the genuine efforts and success of the authors in providing basic information to the students of physiotherapy course. The author’s endeavour to generate interest among youngsters to learn pharmacology cannot be fulfilled with very minimal number of illustrations given in the book. Instead of black and white, multicoloured illustrations will serve the purpose in future.

The authors have meticulously done a good homework on syllabus; but for few omissions viz: association and dissociation constant in general pharmacology, plasma expanders and substitutes in shock, role of superficial and topical remedies in induction of analgesia, psychedelics, their dangers in misuse among student population and radioactive materials in cancer. A chapter on lipid-lowering agents is not warranted in this book, as it does not find a place in the physiotherapy syllabus. Tag of references is not found anywhere.

Every chapter is heralded with box of contents. Strict adherences of the following text to the box of contents, simple and straightforward expression with no question of ambiguity are plus points of the book. The authors have handled the syllabus very cautiously and presented to the physiotherapy students in a palatable form. The briefing of the chapters is done to the optimum level the students of physiotherapy ought to know. A theory class before reading this book will pave the way for better understanding of the subject by the students of physiotherapy.

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Obituary

We announce with deep sorrow the demise of Dr. Paul M. Stephen, former professor and head of the department of Pharmacology, Christian Medical College, Vellore on July 29, 2004 at Bangalore.

Dr. Stephen was born in 1931 and had his schooling at the reputed Christian College High School at Madras. Subsequently he joined Christian Medical College, Vellore as a medical undergraduate and later joined the department of pharmacology in 1958. He received his postgraduate degree from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi and went on to do his Ph.D from CMC, Vellore. He was the first person to be awarded a Ph.D in pharmacology from Madras University.

One distinct characteristic of Dr. Stephen was his cheerful and friendly disposition. His teaching sessions were lively with a characteristic sense of humor. A keen researcher and expert in cardiovascular pharmacology, he stimulated colleagues and postgraduate students to do research and present their work to national and international audiences. Many doctoral scholars and postgraduates remember his enthusiasm and critical input during informal teaching sessions and lab tutorials. They could always depend on his comments and suggestions before sending their manuscripts for publication. He was always surrounded by students, UG, PG and PhD students, some coming from different states in India to be guided by him.

A talented musician, Dr. Paul Stephen was in charge of conducting the choir at CMC Hospital for many years. An avid sportsman during his younger days he was a friend to all and well respected by colleagues and subordinates alike. His standing as an educationist was recognized by the Ohio State University, USA where he was a visiting Scholar in 1971 and a visiting professor to Oral Roberts University, School of Medicine in 1983. He was one of the more popular presidents of the Indian Pharmacological Society and member of the Editorial Board of many journals.

He leaves behind his wife Dr. (Mrs) Vasantha Stephen, and daughter Dr. Mekhala David. As one who has been closely associated with Dr. Paul Stephen, I must say that though it is hard to imagine that his commanding voice will no longer be heard and his sagacious advice will no longer be available for us his spirit will still guide us when we are in need. May his soul rest in peace.

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