

Buchbesprechungen/Analyses de livres

Autopsy in Epidemiology and Medical Research

E. Riboli, M. Delendi (Eds.) 288 pp, £ 25.-, Scientific Publications No. 112, International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO), Lyon 1991, ISBN 9283221125

The work of famous pathologists in the past led the autopsy to be regarded as the final medical word on the pathology of a disease. More recently, the introduction over the last few decades of new diagnostic technologies has helped clinicians to understand numerous disease processes better. However, although there has been a simultaneous decrease in the prestige of pathologists, who have turned towards other activities, quite a few necropsy studies suggest that the new technologies have not greatly significantly altered the clinical judgement made before death. Nevertheless, autopsy studies have often been regarded as too biased to be used as a valuable tool for epidemiology and medical research. The publication contains the papers presented at an international symposium in 1989 which address such issues.

Several chapters analyse the relationships and time trends of autopsy, causes of death and death certificates. Data drawn from a population based autopsy registry with an overall necropsy rate in the general population approaching 70% are presented, and clearly show how valuable such data be for the epidemiologist or other medical scientists. Another group of papers which report on the correlations between autopsy and clinical diagnoses lead to the conclusion that autopsy still has a role to play in improving the quality of diagnosis and care. Finally, a third batch of reports deals with the value of autopsy studies in epidemiology and medical research, with a special emphasis on cancer.

The value of autopsy in this type of research relies much on the methodology used, a topic that is insufficiently covered in the book. However, for those who are already convinced that, as we approach the end of the XXth century, autopsy studies still have an important role to play in epidemiology, medical research, and quality of care studies, the book will provide confirmation of their views. Those, on the other hand, who have doubts about the value of autopsy research today may discover that well conducted and methodologically sound necropsy studies are a valuable tool in modern epidemiology and medical research.

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Neu erschienen/Nouvelles parutions

Sécurité et santé dans la construction

Bureau international du travail Genève, 175 pp, FRs. 20.-, Bureau international du travail, Genève 1991, ISBN 92-2-207104-2

Das Gesundheitswesen. Jahresgesundheitsbericht 1989 für das Gebiet der ehemaligen DDR

Doris Bardehle, Waltraut Casper (Redaktorinnen). Institut für Medizinische Statistik und Datenverarbeitung, Berlin. 442 S., broschiert, DM 29.-. Ärzte Buch Verlag GmbH Berlin 1991. ISBN 3-922324-36-3

L'informatique chez les soignants (I) + (II)

Cahiers médico-sociaux, Volume 35 No. 1.

Alice Lucke, François Borst (Rédacteurs) 184 pp, broché, Frs. 20.-, Editions Médecine et Hygiène, Case 456, 1211 Genève 4, 1991, ISSN 0409-8757

Alpha- und Betahexachlorocyclohexanes

Environmental Health Criteria 123, 170 pp (english, with summaries in french and spanish), paperback, SFr. 20.-, in developing countries SFr. 14.-, World Health Organization Geneva, 1992, ISBN 924 157 1233

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Environmental Health Criteria 124, 208 pp (english, with summaries in french und spanisch), paperback, SFr. 23.-, in developing countries SFr. 16.10, Order No. 1160 124, World Health Organization Geneva, 1992, ISBN 924 157 241

Occupational Exposures in Insecticide Application, and Some Pesticides. IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans, Vol. 53

IARC, 612 pp (English only), paperback, SFr. 95.-, in developing countries SFr. 66.50. Order No. 172 0053, World Health Organization Geneva, 1992, ISBN 928 321 2533

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