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Honč, Petr & Přívratská, Jana & Hellerová, Kristina (2022). *Essential Medical Terminology. Your Lifeboat in the Sea of Terms*. (220 p.). Charles University: Carolinum Press. ISBN 978-80-246-5349-5.

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The publication *Essential Medical Terminology. Your Lifeboat in the Sea of Terms*, by three educators with a classics and linguistics background based at the Department of Languages at the 3rd Faculty of Medicine of Charles University, fully implements the promise of its title. It illuminates the basics of Latin grammar and presents the main vocabulary employed in the faculty of medicine studies and medical practices. The book serves mainly as the source text for Medical Terminology courses and self-study for medical faculty students. However, the pragmatic and intelligible manner in which the book is conceived predisposes it to popularity with a broader readership interested in the logic and expressive precision of medical language.

The book is structured into two sections. Including an introductory chapter that discusses basic grammatical categories and Latin pronunciation, the first section (Chapters 2–13) describes noun and adjective inflexion, gradually initiating students to the Latin declension system. The second section (Chapters 14–18) focuses on word formation, which in addition to the Latin words, features words of Greek origin, compounds and hybrid words. The sets of chapters with didactic content are interwoven with four review chapters (A Chapters 2–4, B Chapters 6–9, C Chapters 11–12 and D Chapters 14–17), which test the students' knowledge and with the assistance of the so-called revision chapter key, evaluate them. The book also includes a list of abbreviations (p. 9), a linguistic glossary (pp. 12–13) and a Latin-English dictionary (pp. 205–217).

Consistently, the introduction to each chapter features the so-called keywords to represent

grammatical elements which are discussed in detail within the particular chapter. The keywords section is accompanied by one or two illustrations, described in Latin and English, to assist the beginner students in getting a clear idea of which part of the human body is referred to. The grammar section follows, demonstrating the selected grammatical elements on concrete examples complemented by indispensable explanatory notes. Tables and diagrams also greatly facilitate the understanding of the theoretical text. After that, the exercises section is presented, which is based on tasks of various types, such as forming the phrases, connecting the nouns and adjectives, changing singular forms to plural forms, filling in the missing endings, ordering the words in the correct forms to make medical phrases, translating etc.

The grammar and exercises sections are followed by the abbreviation section, which is always connected to the vocabulary and grammar of the given chapter. Rather pleasant than strictly didactic are the lists of Latin phrases to remember from / outside the medical field, such as *Sero venientibus ossa. – Bones for those who are late. The early bird catches the worm.* (p. 99), and *Ubi Venus, ibi syphilis. – Where there's sex, there's sexual disease.* (p. 116), or a well-known proverb firmly established in our cultural environment *Duo cum faciunt idem, saepe non est idem. – When two do the same, it is often not the same.* (p. 163), that point out the enlightening and, in many cases also, humorous facet of the Latin language. This may arouse interest, especially in students with a rather negative view of a dead, however fascinating language.

Finally, an essential part of each chapter is represented by a set of so-called revision questions that verify students' knowledge of the subject matter and the NB (nota bene) section, where the most crucial information that should be kept in mind is summarised. A vocabulary, where two things must be highlighted, is included at the end of the chapters. First, the distribution of nouns according to gender (masculine, feminine, neuter) is particularly beneficial in assisting students in remembering the genitive suffixes of the genders in the various declensions. Second, elaborating the meaning of a translated term in brackets, e.g. levátor, levātōris, m. – levator (a muscle that elevates an organ or structure, p. 90) or as a part of translation, e.g. carcinoma, atis, n. – malignant tumour of epithelial origin (p. 120).

Essential Medical Terminology is a comprehensive and invaluable resource for anyone seeking

to learn or improve their knowledge of medical language. With a logically structured grammar explanation and rational distribution of the main lexicon of medical language, accompanied by numerous tables, diagrams, illustrations, exercises, phrases and summaries of the essential information, the book by Petr Honč, Jana Přivratská and Kristina Hellerová provides an indispensable didactic and practical tool for the medicine faculty educators and students alike, which they will regard, as far as Medical Terminology courses are concerned, as an authentic *lifeboat in the sea of terms*. Additionally, the humorous and culturally resonating Latin phrases interspersed throughout the textbook make it an engaging and enjoyable read. Overall, this book is a must-have for anyone interested in gaining a solid foundation in Latin medical language, and it is sure to be a treasured resource for years to come.

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