In summary, our results confirmed previous studies that showed that diabetic patients with and without demonstrable retinopathy have an increased incidence of acquired blue-yellow dyschromatopsia. Further, our studies have provided new information that there is a substantial increase in both frequency and severity of blue-yellow vision deficits in diabetic patients who have had laser therapy compared with those patients with both nonproliferative and proliferative retinopathy. Because the color-reagent test strips for home glucose monitoring involve accurately interpreting blues and yellows, patients with diabetes should be evaluated for their ability to accurately read these reagent strips if this method of home glucose monitoring is to be used. As an alternative to the use of color-reagent strips, diabetic patients, especially those who have received laser therapy, can use home blood glucose monitoring machines that do not require accurate color perception for glucose level determination.

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Book Review

The Western Journal of Medicine *does not review all books sent by publishers, although information about new books received is printed elsewhere in the journal as space permits. Prices quoted are those given by the publishers.*

Clinical Information Systems

Bruce I. Blum. Springer-Verlag, 175 Fifth Ave, New York, NY 10010, 1986. 414 pages, $53.50.

With this book, Blum has succeeded in filling a long-felt need for a treatment of clinical information systems that is both authoritative and complete. By reviewing the subject of clinical information systems broadly, his book answers many of the most frequently asked questions about this subject.

The book divides itself naturally into three parts. A discussion of the history of the modern digital computer and a review of its early applications to the health care system sets the stage. The second part deals with modern hardware and software, with data bases and systems implementations. The final part treats hospital information systems, ambulatory care systems and medical decision making. A brief case study of a particular application system at the author's own institution completes the third part.

Although no book can be everything to all readers, this one comes as close as any that I have seen that attempts to deal with the general subject of medical computing. Blum proceeds through the field systematically and from first principles so that no previous experience with computers or related technology is expected of the reader. Yet the book is dense with facts and explanations, so that at once it is an encyclopedia, a smoothly reading text and a valuable source for the casual reader interested in the uses to which computers are being put in medicine. It would well serve physicians or medical students with more serious interests and could serve as a text in developing a course on medical computing.

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