Book reviews

Atlas of Total Hip Replacement. By *Paul M. Pellicci* and *Douglas E. Padgett*. Pp 230. Edinburgh, etc: Churchill Livingstone, 1995. ISBN: 0-443-08902-7. £99.50.

This is the first of a series of books on orthopaedic surgical skills, clearly aimed at the trainee orthopaedic surgeon, providing a detailed account of standard operations. Each double-page spread shows a line drawing on one side with the text, often only a sentence or two, on the other. The style is didactic, leading the reader through the procedures from preoperative planning to draping, exposure, preparation of bone surfaces, orientation of the components, cementing, wound closure and dressing. The description and illustration of the three-dimensional relationship between the acetabular and femoral components are models of clarity; I wish that this book had been available when I started training.

The attraction of this Atlas lies in the quality of the illustrations and in the attention given to every detail of the procedure; the authors have realised that the junior trainee requires guidance on draping and positioning as much as on the actual surgery. They concentrate on the posterior approach to the hip, which is not encouraged in some units. A chapter describing other approaches would broaden the appeal. There is no discussion of the problems of protrusio, hip dysplasia or the later results of trauma or osteotomy. This Atlas will not supplant the fuller descriptions found in *Campbell's operative orthopaedics* and elsewhere but it can be recommended to those in the early years of orthopaedic training as a supplement to hands-on instruction. – *Simon Smith*

Postgraduate Textbook of Clinical Orthopaedics. 2nd edition. Edited by *Nigel H. Harris* and *Rolfe Birch*. Pp 1211. Oxford, etc: Blackwell Science Ltd, 1995. ISBN: 0-632-02902-1. £150.00.

What is the place in the modern orthopaedic world for the seven kilogram textbook? Librarians have difficult choices to make, but some volumes are of sufficient value and permanence to deserve shelf space. Of particular value are contributions extracted (sometimes painfully) from experienced but reticent senior surgeons. The editors of this book are to be commended for most of their selection.

It is true that the content is uneven and follows no set programme. Some chapters are classic in their scope and presentation. These include Fixsen on children's feet and arms, Insall and Scuderi on the knee, Bonney on the cervical spine, Kemp, Pringle and Stoker on bone cysts and tumours and Ansell and Swann on juvenile chronic arthritis. Hardly of less value are Ling and Timperley on cementing techniques, Kelly on the shoulder, Souter and Abernethy on rheumatoid arthritis, Hunt on the limping child, Saleh on leg inequality, Catto on avascular necrosis, Horan on the

dysplasias and others which cover challenging areas of clinical practice.

A few of the chapters retained from the first edition show their age, but for a senior trainee the book contains the essence of practical orthopaedics. No book can now be comprehensive or include the outcome of current research and development.

A reviewer may carp at the occasional picture printed upside-down, using a list to prove that he has read every page. But where was the editorial pencil when page 803 went to press? On this all six radiographs of the arthritic shoulder are wrongly labelled and four are upside-down. There are many other inverted pictures, even a chest radiograph, and some which were correctly orientated in the first edition have somersaulted. One can only hope that the readers will have sufficient knowledge and experience not to be misled. – *M. Laurence*

Clinical Performance of Skeletal Prostheses. Edited by *Larry L. Hench* and *June Wilson*. Pp 276. London, etc: Chapman and Hall, 1996. ISBN: 0-412-72110-4. £50.00.

Few subjects exercise the orthopaedic conscience so painfully as the failed implant. Here is a set of specific survival studies analysing the causes of failure and patterns of wear of a number of prostheses.

The introduction identifies the problems in relation to materials, positioning and security of fixation, gleaned the data from a comprehensive analysis of the orthopaedic literature. The authors are all academic researchers for the University of Florida; none is a surgeon presenting his own work.

This is essential core material for any research-orientated department of orthopaedics and presents a scientific foundation for studies on the future of prosthetic replacement. – *M. Laurence*

The Problem Knee. 2nd edition. Edited by *Malcolm F. Macnicol*. Pp 210. Oxford, etc: Butterworth-Heinemann Ltd, 1995. ISBN: 0-7506-0487-5. £50.00.

There are many excellent texts on disorders of the knee, but most are several volumes in length. The second edition of this book, however, deals concisely with disorders of the knee in younger age groups; it excludes degenerative conditions and provides a comprehensive view of soft-tissue lesions and fractures. Emphasis is placed on history, examination and investigation rather than on the detail of surgical technique. The chapter in the first edition on retraining muscles has been replaced by one on soft-tissue injuries which contains much useful information.

Some parts of the book will provoke debate. Many surgeons with an interest in knee disorders advise a more aggressive approach to rupture of the anterior cruciate ligament, both in indications for operation and in postoperative rehabilitation. Some discussion of the use of power tools in arthroscopy would have been helpful, and the high failure rate of meniscal suturing for isolated tears should perhaps have been emphasised. These are minor quibbles: the book is packed with useful and relevant information for junior medical staff, general practitioners and physiotherapists. It

is well written, well organised, well illustrated and enjoyable to read. – *G. S. E. Dowd*

Nerve Injuries. Operative Results for Major Nerve Injuries, Entrapments, and Tumors. Edited by *David G. Kline* and *Alan R. Hudson*. Pp 596. Philadelphia, etc: W. B. Saunders Company, 1995. ISBN: 0-7216-3264-5. £100.00.

This book is a major contribution to the field of peripheral neurosurgery. In 600 pages the authors share with the reader their considerable experience and provide up-to-date information on the mechanism, physiology and pathology of injury and of its clinical and electrical evaluation. The techniques of microsurgical repair, grafting, neurotisation and resection of painful neuromata are clearly presented. Individual nerve injuries are described precisely, not only with regard to surgical technique, but also to the clinical variations and the management and treatment of individual patients.

The results from one institution are clearly described. This team experience increases the value of the data presented, but the latter are sometimes relatively difficult to follow. The many illustrations do not help with understanding, and a large number of case histories are presented. There is a large chapter on brachial plexus injury, discussing some original methods of treating such patients, for example by a posterior approach to the brachial plexus and the use of perioperative nerve action potentials. Where opinions differ, a variety of approaches is described.

Both authors are neurosurgeons and have published mainly in the neurosurgical literature; this book makes their valuable work available to other specialties.

This masterpiece follows the major works of Sir Sydney Sunderland to whom the book is dedicated. It will be invaluable for all who accept the challenge of managing major problems in the peripheral nervous system. – *Laurent Sedel*

Les Paralysies du Plexus Brachial. 2nd edition. Monographies du Groupe d'Etude de la Main. 21. By *J-Y Alnot* and *A. Narakas*. Pp 297. Paris: Expansion Scientifique Francaise, 1995. ISBN: 2-7046-1464-4. FF510.00.

The first edition of this work, published in 1988, was a landmark in the study of lesions of the brachial plexus, combining original work on anatomical aspects with clinical diagnosis, investigation and techniques of repair. It was, quite simply, the best work to have appeared on the subject and it is surprising that it was not translated from the French.

The second edition is very different. The continued close analysis of the contributors' results provides a more definite, indeed decisive, edge to proposals for treatment. Important new work is introduced, notably on birth lesions of the plexus and the repair of spinal rootlets. The work is a fitting tribute to Algimantas Narakas, foremost of those who founded the 'modern school' in this field. He died before this new edition was published but had written or contributed towards nine of the chapters.

The book follows the format of the first edition, with three essays on macroscopic and microscopic anatomy and on the topography of the proximal parts of the spinal nerves. Two large sections describe the nerves available for graft or transfer including the hypoglossal nerve (Sloof) and the ulnar nerve (Oberlin and colleagues). Eight chapters then discuss the clinical diagnosis of traction lesion, features of the combined nerve and vascular lesion,

and aspects of radiological diagnosis. All of these are excellent; that by Narakas, on the examination of muscular function, is a masterpiece.

In the next six chapters many contributors combine to discuss results and formulate proposals for treatment of complete and partial lesions; they are quite prescriptive in discussing the place for palliative or reconstructive procedures. There are three chapters on pain, rehabilitation and reintegration. New and fascinating work is presented in the chapters on the birth lesion, from Gilbert, Sloof and Blauuw, and on repair of the preganglionic lesion from Carlstedt.

The work is well produced: the line drawings are excellent and the photographs are almost all of good quality. A reviewer should make some criticism, preferably constructive; my points reflect differences in approach between Continental colleagues and the London school rather than any error. It is odd that there is little reference to neurophysiological work in diagnosis, and it is possible to disagree with the distinguished surgeon, J-Y Alnot, who prefers to repair a neural lesion at a separate operation from an urgent vascular reconstruction. It is a pity that two fine chapters in the first edition, on tumours and irradiation neuropathy, no longer appear. Perhaps, too, the immense surgical experience of these two editors may be extended to a discussion of open lesions from knife or scalpel or gunshot. I make these points to urge those interested to purchase and study not only this edition but also the first.

The work is in French and extends well beyond the essential curriculum for orthopaedic trainees; on both counts it hardly qualifies for CME. All the more reason for surgeons, neurologists and physicians engaged in this field to buy it, read it, and learn from it. – *Rolfe Birch*

MRI of the Musculoskeletal System. 3rd edition. Edited by *Thomas H. Berquist*. Pp 970. Philadelphia, etc: Lippincott-Raven Publishers, 1995. ISBN: 0-7817-0310-7. £115.00.

The provision of a third edition within a decade reflects the dramatic developments in imaging. A mass of information is presented, but the generous illustrations reward the effort needed by a clinician to study another specialty. Detailed case histories are used to enliven the sometimes heavy text, and the book is a valuable contribution to diagnosis and detailed surgical planning. – *M. Laurence*

Practical Interventional Radiology of the Musculoskeletal System. Edited by *David J. Wilson*. Pp 142. London, etc: Edward Arnold, 1995. ISBN: 0-340-57645-6. £69.50.

This book, one of a series of practical manuals on interventional radiology, is devoted to the musculoskeletal system. In keeping with the aim of the series, it provides a didactic approach to the common procedures, being based on the personal experience of a group of internationally known radiologists from the USA, Australia, France and the UK. In less than 150 pages, it encompasses the whole range of techniques that are in current use, and an impressive repertoire it is!

Sections are devoted to joint injections (including those best performed under radiological control), medical synovectomy with radionuclides or osmic acid, abscess drainage, embolisation of vascular malformations, bone biopsy, facet joint injection and blocks, discography, chymopapain chemonucleolysis, percutaneous lumbar discectomy by nucleotomy, selective nerve root blocks and percutaneous vertebroplasty with methylmethacrylate.

Each chapter follows the same format—an introduction, general indications and contraindications, technique, pitfalls, overall clinical value, specific problems and a list of up-to-date references. The style and language are crisp and the illustrations are of a uniformly high standard.

Practical manuals are written primarily for those who wish to learn new techniques, and inevitably the greatest target readership will be trainee radiologists. This book, however, aside from the technical details, can provide clinicians from all specialties who are interested in musculoskeletal diseases with an insight into the rapidly advancing contributions that interventional radiologists now make, not only to diagnosis, but also to treatment. — *R. Grahame*

Chirurgie de l'Avant-pied. Edited by *B. Valtin*. Pp 200. Paris, etc: Expansion Scientifique Francaise, 1996. ISBN: 2-7046-1489-X. FF490.00.

This monograph has been produced under the auspices of Le Group d'Etude du Pied of SOFCOT. In a comprehensive

treatise on the biomechanics, pathology and treatment of disease of the forefoot, Dr Valtin has brought together authors who have the knowledge and ability to simplify a complex subject. A thorough analysis of the possibilities of management, including operation and orthoses, has been undertaken, and is a valuable contribution to the understanding of the subject.

Connective Tissue Diseases. Edited by *Jill J. F. Belch* and *Robert B. Zurier*. Pp 377. London, etc: Chapman & Hall Medical, 1995. ISBN: 0-412-48620-2. £79.00.

This work covers the pathology and medical treatment of inflammatory joint disease, an understanding and sympathy for which are essential for surgeons who are involved in the management of these conditions. A thorough account of the problem has been produced by a body of physicians expert in these disorders and will prove invaluable to the orthopaedic surgeon who may be asked for an opinion on such patients.