BOOK REVIEWS

An Atlas of Flaps in Limb Reconstruction. By *Alain C. Masquelet* and *Alain Gilbert*. Pp 265. London: Martin Dunitz Ltd, 1995. ISBN: 1-85317-172-7. £99.50.

This is a beautifully produced book with an excellent pedigree. Both authors are well known in the field of reconstructive surgery, having written a similarly well-illustrated volume on pedicle flaps of the upper limb. Professor Raoul Tubiana is the Director of the series and has written the foreword.

A brief but succinct historical review is followed by sections on vascular anatomy, preoperative planning and the description of various flaps. Each method has a short introduction indicating the vascular supply and drainage, and a well-illustrated operative approach. Leon Dorn's illustrations are superbly presented. I found the last section on the indications for pedicle island flaps to be very informative.

This is not a 'cook book' to be used by an inexperienced enthusiast, but provides a remarkable insight into the possibilities of limb reconstruction, so that expert help may be sought. To the experienced plastic surgeon many of the flaps are familiar but one or two new ones may be worth becoming acquainted with, for example, the medial pedis flap in the foot.

The book is expensive but the price is justified by the high quality of production and the detail available; it compares favourably with other similar operative texts. – *K. M. N. Kunzru*.

Fractures and Dislocations. Principles of Management. Edited by *P. J. Gregg*, *J. Stevens* and *P. H. Worlock*. Pp 908. Oxford, etc: Blackwell Science Ltd, 1996. ISBN: 0-632-02303-1. £160.00.

The stated aim of this book is to combine the traditional British 'conservative' treatment of fractures with the more 'aggressive' approach favoured by mainland European and North American orthopaedic surgeons. In this the authors have succeeded but it must be questioned whether the innovative European school of traumatology should be tempered by British conservatism. As a genre, however, British trauma texts have always adopted this approach.

There are two sections. The first deals with the general principles of fracture management and includes some good chapters, notably those about the radiology of fractures, the systemic response to injury and the early management of trauma. The second covers specific injuries by region and is divided in the usual way into separate body areas. This latter section illustrates the almost inevitable difficulty associated with any multiauthor text. The quality of the chapters is patchy. Some, such as the chapter on hip fractures, provide cogent up-to-date information; others, unfortunately, do not.

The distinct impression is that some of the chapters in this section were written years ago and have not been updated. Many contain no references later than 1990 which accentuates the variation in chapter quality. Where the philosophy of fracture

management has not altered much in the last ten years the message is appropriate. This applies mainly to the treatment of metaphyseal and intra-articular fractures in which the AO philosophy still holds sway. That of diaphyseal fractures, however, has changed considerably in the last decade and some of the advances are not included in this book.

I believe that this volume will be of interest to orthopaedic trainees but should be used as an adjunct to other texts. The editors express optimism about a second edition and if this does come about I would expect a number of changes. – *C. Court-Brown*.

Imaging of the Foot and Ankle. By *Julia R. Crim* in collaboration with *Andrea Cracchiolo III* and *Reginald L. Hall*. Pp 244. London: Martin Dunitz Ltd, 1996. ISBN: 1-85317-219-7. £75.00.

The poverty of diagnosis in disorders of the foot and ankle contrasts with the multiplicity of operations offered for their relief. Modern imaging techniques may open the clinician's mind to more possibilities and sharpen the clarity of insight into diagnosis. This book will help this process.

The first chapter is on the anatomy and the second on the various imaging techniques. Clear prose is used, and the many plates are of excellent quality with clear labelling and explanations. The descriptions of clinical presentation and treatment allow the investigations to be seen in context. It is clearly stated when an imaging technique has less value and when artefacts are likely. The bibliographies are lengthy but some anecdotal reports and small series could have been excluded, and the tables of differential diagnoses are strained in their compass.

This book is recommended for the hospital library and for orthopaedic surgeons and radiologists who wish to increase the accuracy of their diagnoses in the foot and ankle. – *D. S. Halpin*.

Atlas of Spine Surgery. By *Robert B. Winter*, *John W. Lonstein*, *Francis Denis* and *Michael D. Smith*. Pp 554. Philadelphia, etc: W.B. Saunders Company, 1995. ISBN: 0-7216-2958-X. £110.00.

This book was written by Robert Winter and his colleagues at that well-known 'Mecca' of spinal surgery, Minneapolis. The aim was to produce an atlas of operative surgery devoted to the spine, specifically for the higher surgical trainee. The authors cover most surgical procedures comprehensively, starting with those for the cervical spine and proceeding through the common operations for the thoracic and lumbar spine. There are useful short chapters on the application of the 'halo' and on how to take bone graft. No attempt is made to discuss indications or include any bibliography or references. The success of this type of book depends on the illustrations; in this book they are excellent.

Most of the recent developments in spinal surgery are covered including the latest instrumentation, but the authors concentrate sensibly on the basic principles of various approaches rather than trying to cover all the different systems that are now available.

Although there are some points which may be criticised, such as the knee/elbow position for posterior lumbar procedures, the overall

clarity and standard of this book are such that I would have no hesitation in recommending it to trainees in spinal surgery. It should be available in the operating theatre of any unit carrying out spinal surgery. – *J. R. Johnson.*

Amputation. Surgical Practice and Patient Management. Edited by *G. Murdoch* and *A. Bennett Wilson Jr.* Pp 382. Oxford, etc: Butterworth-Heinemann, 1996. ISBN: 0-7506-0843-9. £85.00.

Orthopaedic surgeons cannot avoid the need to consider amputation, particularly those who deal with trauma, tumours and children. Like all areas of surgery there are constant advances in management. George Murdoch, who is well known for his expertise in this field, has combined with A. Bennett Wilson of the University of Virginia to edit a new and comprehensive textbook. There are contributions from both Europe and North America.

Beginning with Ambrose Paré, who is designated the founder of modern principles of amputation, the technical problems of the wide variety of procedures available for upper and lower limbs are described in detail. All other components of successful treatment such as biomechanics, prosthetics and rehabilitation are also considered. The difficult decision whether to salvage or remove a severely injured lower limb is discussed by Gordon Hunter of Toronto. In addition, there is a section on the neuropathic foot and on amputations in the developing world, using Africa and India as the examples.

Careful study of this book will provide a senior trainee with enough knowledge of the subject to satisfy the most inquisitive examiner and it is an excellent basis for practice. – *L. Klenerman.*

Pie plano y Anomalías del Antepie. Flatfoot and Forefoot Deformities. By *T. Epeldegui.* Pp 360. Madrid: A. Madrid Vicente, Ediciones, 1995. ISBN: 84-87440-81-9. \$48.00.

This is a collection of papers presented at a conference in Madrid in November 1995. Each speaker has contributed a chapter with references. Two-thirds of the text is in Spanish.

For those interested in the child's foot, there are contributions by experts such as Drennan and Staheli. That of John Fixsen on flat foot is a concise presentation which clarifies the situation perfectly. There is useful information on the growth of the foot, metatarsus varus and congenital vertical talus. This is a book for a hospital library as it gives succinct accounts of a number of common problems, which can provide the trainee with an overall view of the subject. – *L. Klenerman.*

Ligaments of the Knee. Edited by *Alfred J. Tria.* Pp 368. Edinburgh, etc: Churchill Livingstone, 1995. ISBN: 0-443-08954-X. £75.00.

This book covers the field of knee ligaments in 14 chapters that span evolution and embryology of the knee to rehabilitation after surgery. It gives a thorough grounding in anatomy and biomechanics with a consistent chapter layout that defines the underlying science before presenting the surgical techniques favoured by the author of each chapter. A review of the literature leads the reader to present-day concepts in successive chapters rather than presenting him with a 'this is how to do it' approach. The overall bulk of the book, some 320 pages, is considerably less than many that have been published on knee ligaments recently. This economy is achieved by succinct referencing which aids the reader who wishes to obtain a quick grasp of some aspect, yet still provides the basic information to give understanding.

My review included the acid test of actually using the book to help to prepare a lecture on posterolateral instability, an area which is relatively unexplored and subject to complex and variable anatomy. I can report that the book was invaluable, thanks in this instance to a long chapter on 'combined injuries' by Aglietti et al, who marshalled the often conflicting literature into a sensible form.

I feel that this will be a useful book for a surgeon who wishes to learn recent thoughts and accepted methods from the USA (mainly New York and Pittsburgh). It also provides a clear account of imaging methods, such as MRI, explained step by step, allowing the reader to follow the courses of structures through the knee and to identify some of the more common 'false-positive results' for this sensitive method.

My one criticism is an over-reliance on drawings, rather than photographs, of the anatomy; this has led to some inaccuracies regarding the femoral attachment of the anterior cruciate ligament in both anatomical and surgical chapters, something which demands the greatest accuracy. Readers from outside the USA may find that their accustomed surgical methods are scarcely mentioned, but the overall usefulness of this book is enhanced by its didactic tone. I am sure that I shall continue to use this book, and I recommend it to any surgeon with an interest in the rapidly-evolving work on knee ligaments. – *A. Amis.*

Operative Shoulder Surgery. By *Stephen Copeland.* Pp 256. Edinburgh, etc: Churchill Livingstone, 1995. ISBN: 0-443-0464-9. £99.50.

This book is intended to detail "clearly the technique of operative shoulder procedures that are required for the management of the majority of shoulder patients". By inference therefore it is aimed mainly at the orthopaedic trainee and the occasional shoulder surgeon.

It is presented in an easy-to-read format. The chapters are generally short and stand up without extensive cross-referencing, allowing the reader to dip in at will for easy access to information. The illustrations, which are excellent, have been placed on the right-hand pages, with relevant clear text opposite them.

Completeness is appropriately sacrificed for reasons of brevity and ease of handling but the content ranges from straightforward techniques to such advanced procedures as arthroscopic stabilisation. Major omissions are rare, but I would like to have seen the glenohumeral and acromioclavicular joints included in the chapter on injection techniques. Presumably to control the size of the book, there are no balanced discussions about the relative merits of various procedures. This has the advantage of keeping the messages clear; there is little doubt as to the author's own chosen techniques. The chapter on double osteotomy by Benjamin is interesting, but the reader is still left in some doubt as to its indications in relation to total shoulder arthroplasty. The chapters by Birch on nerve injuries are invaluable in an area little seen except by the very experienced specialist surgeon.

I can strongly recommend this book to orthopaedic trainees and to all general orthopaedic surgeons who require to keep up to date with an area of surgery which may not be their sole interest. – *Richard Hartley.*

Info-Med Orthopaedics. Volume 2. Edited by *P. C. Leung.* Pp 627. Hong Kong, etc: Waverly Info-Med Ltd, 1996. ISBN: 962-356-008-7. £27.95.

It is difficult to comment upon comments made on abbreviations of papers from the world's orthopaedic journals, except to recommend this rich source of references, judiciously selected.