Book reviews

A-Z of orthopaedic radiology. By Sarah Burnett, Andrew Taylor and Martin Watson. Pp 227. London, etc: W. B. Saunders, 2000. ISBN: 0-7020-2492-9. \$49.00.

This is a book heralded as a 'simple guide to orthopaedic radiology'. Written by a renowned musculoskeletal radiologist, Sarah Burnett, and specialist registrars in both radiology and orthopaedics, it is designed as an aid for higher surgical trainees of both specialties. The contents cover a wide variety of orthopaedic conditions, listed alphabetically, as the title suggests. With the exception of 'non-accidental injury', traumatic conditions are not included, although attention is paid to the complications which arise therefrom.

The layout consists of a brief description of each condition including demographics, clinical presentation and management followed by the most appropriate radiological investigation, with the characteristic changes clearly listed as 'bullet points'. Further imaging techniques are added where appropriate, and key points are highlighted with a 'key' symbol and warnings with a 'bell'. Each opposite page contains the relevant radiological image.

The text is well written and includes the most important points for each condition. The quality of the illustrations is excellent, and the radiological changes are clearly shown. A lack of labelling on the illustrations is challenging, requiring effort to understand some of them. Perhaps more line drawings, as used, for example, for displaying the Graf angles in developmental dysplasia of the hip, or arrows would have helped the descriptions. Furthermore, the pathological MR images could be confusing to those unfamiliar with the normal appearance.

The authors have produced a comprehensive guide and I would recommend it to both senior house officers and specialist registrars early on in their higher surgical training. It is a valuable aid both for quick reference and for revision.

Peter Calder.

Reliability and long-term results of ceramics in orthopaedics. Edited by L. Sedel and G. Willmann. Pp 117. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme, 1999. ISBN: 3-13-118481-7. DM 148.00.

This brief volume contains a collection of papers which were read at the fourth International CeramTec Symposium held in March 1999. They are divided into three sections: 1) ceramics in orthopaedics, in which the general aspects of ceramics are considered; 2) the clinical evaluation of the reliability of ceramics; and 3) the technical aspects of reliability. Considerable coverage is given to the special problems associated with prosthetic replacement of the knee. There is also a useful bibliography relating to bioceramics for total hip replacement.

As with any collection of papers, the quality is variable, but most are of value to the reader with a special interest in the use of ceramic materials in the surgery of joint replacement.

N. Rushton.

Textbook of bunion surgery. 3rd edition. Edited by J. Gerbert. Pp 499. Stuttgart: Georg Thieme Verlag, 2001. ISBN: 0-7216-7784-3. EUR 331.32, DM 648.00.

This book, written by podiatrists from the California College of Podiatric Medicine, is on a common topic but it is a useful exercise to read about a familiar subject viewed from a different perspective.

After an introduction on aetiology and examination, there is no broad overview of the subject illustrating the important basic principles and indications underlying surgery, nor is there mention of the problem in children and adolescents. Instead, there are 13 chapters which describe, in considerable technical detail with lists of the advantages, disadvantages, contraindications and potential inherent complications, a variety of possible operations, including those on soft tissues and the multiple variations on the theme of osteotomy.

If the procedure required is known, including an operation such as an arthrodesis, this book will be useful. The emphasis is on technique, and the diagrams are well done. I was surprised to read of the numerous permutations of the Chevron osteotomy. An osteotomy less familiar to orthopaedic surgeons is the Scarf osteotomy, first described in 1983 and named from a carpenter's term for an interlocking cut. It is Z-shaped, carried out in the horizontal plane, and suitable for any abnormal intermetatarsal angle. The degree of correction, however, depends on the width of the first metatarsal. The author acknowledges that it is technically difficult but states that it has stood the test of time. The final section deals with complications, and it was reassuring to note that two-part replacement of the metatarsophalangeal joint of the great toe is condemned, as it should be. The text gives an insight into North American podiatric practice.

Leslie Klenerman.

Benefits and hazards of exercise. Edited by Domhall MacAuley. Pp 368. London: BMJ Books, 1999. ISBN: 0-7279-1412-X. £35.00.

The editor of this book has just stepped down from editing the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*. Rather than a comprehensive scientific survey, as promised by its title, the book reflects the editor's interests in health promotion and exercise.

The chapters are supplemented by multiple-choice questions of variable quality, and suggests that the book is aimed at the student market in sports science, exercise science and sports medicine. The hazards of exercise described are rather limited, but they include sudden cardiac death in young athletes (a minor problem compared with the risks to the middle-aged), a theoretical chapter on hypogonadism in male marathon runners, with lack of proof of any association with osteopenia in men, and a chapter on the overtraining syndrome, since renamed UPS, the underperformance syndrome. Orthopaedically inclined readers will find little or nothing on overuse injuries, acute injuries, arthritis, or the female-athlete triad. The two mentions of fatigue fracture are on different pages from those given in the index. Medical problems such as exercise-induced asthma, anaphylaxis, exercise-associated collapse, heat stroke and other risks of prolonged exercise are not discussed, and the chapter on sport and viral infections, although interesting, is essentially about the latter.

Overall, this book is an interesting read, and is packed with references, not just for those who promote exercise but also for the practitioners in sports medicine who deal with the 'hazards'.

Dan Tunstall Pedoe.

Master techniques in orthopaedic surgery. Fractures. CD-ROM. Series Editor R. C. Thompson Jr. Editor D. A. Wiss. Hagerstown: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2000. ISBN: 0-7817-1422-2. \$225.00.

This disc is suitable for both Macintosh and Windows-based machines; it installs simply and rapidly. The CD is divided into three sections, with a comprehensive coverage of most of the common and some of the uncommon fractures.

Each chapter is divided into indications for surgery, preoperative planning, procedures, postoperative planning and complications. It is possible, from the side menu, to skip any section or move on to other areas. To complement each chapter, there is a corresponding video. These are good, providing a commentary to accompany the images. Unfortunately, the latter are, on the whole, static, although there are some rotating three-dimensional models. The CD-ROM would benefit from more moving video images, particularly for areas like fixation of sacral screws or elevation of muscle flaps. In addition to the visual summary, the authors include a separate section showing the figures from each chapter. These are extremely helpful, although some of the radiographs could perhaps be of better quality.

One of the advantages of computer technology is the ability to search, for example, for key words. I was able to search for topics, authors and recommended reading. It was relatively easy from the search section to then find the appropriate match and to enter the chapter at the appropriate point.

I found this to be an interesting and informative CD. Inevitably, with this sort of work, there is some bias in the methods of fixation chosen. The authors and editor are to be congratulated, however, for providing a wide range of operative techniques. The value of visualisations and three-dimensional figures is particularly appropriate for acetabular and pelvic fractures which are covered extremely well. I think this CD-ROM is invaluable for surgeons in training, and should be available on PCs in theatres, with access to all members of staff, including nurses and theatre assistants.

W. M. Harper.

Trauma: a companion to Bailey and Love's Short practice of surgery. Edited by D. V. Skinner and F. Whimster. Pp 345. London: Arnold, 1999. ISBN: 0-340-74101-5. £95.00.

The editors are to be congratulated on a remarkably comprehensive textbook which deals with the whole spectrum of trauma care, ranging from organisational issues, and injury assessment and treatment, through to rehabilitation. Although individual styles vary, the whole is highly readable, with the appropriate use of tables, diagrams and illustrations.

The book begins slowly but then gathers pace and improves. The low-key start might have been prevented by placing some of the final chapters, such as those on injury prediction, injury

severity and trauma scoring, nearer the beginning. I would also have appreciated a section within the cardiothoracic chapter on the management of penetrating injuries to the chest presenting without immediately obvious underlying injury, and some reference in the chapter on trauma systems to the organisation of emergency services generally.

Although they abound in trauma, as in most other fields of medicine, there seems to be little mention of controversies. This is a disadvantage and means that the book is likely to become dated fairly rapidly. Some chapters contain a small section on future developments, which is very helpful in a book of this nature. There is also an excellent overview of organ donation and transplantation. An entire chapter on skin grafting, including cloned human tissue, which is not mentioned in the burns section, would have been useful, and the lack of a chapter on infection is a considerable omission.

I liked the chapters which consider patients by age and type. They are to the point, clearly subdivided, and therefore useful. Others worthy of special mention are those on emergency neurosurgery, which I thought were excellent, and on which I wish the rest of the book had been modelled. The chapter on the management of maxillofacial trauma was almost as good.

In the final analysis, this is a textbook which should be read (and probably bought) by all those involved in trauma, and placed, possibly chained to the shelf, in every accident and emergency and orthopaedic department.

John A. Henry.

Books received

SOFCOT Rachis cervical traumatique. Edited by C. Argenson. Pp 156. Paris: Elsevier, 2000. ISBN: 2-84299-223. EUR 68.60.

SOFCOT Chirurgie endoscopique du rachis. Edited by J. P. Benazet. Pp 189. Paris: Elsevier, 2000. ISBN: 2-84299-222-9. EUR 68.60.

SOFCOT Malformations congenitales des membres inferieurs. Edited by H. Carlioz and J. M. Clavert. Pp 199. Paris: Elsevier, 2000. ISBN: 2-84299-221-0. EUR 68.60.

SOFCOT Conférences d'enseignement 2000. Edited by J. Duparc. Pp 296. Paris: Elsevier, 2000. ISBN: 2-84299-220-2. EUR 105.19.

SOFCOT Traumatisme du coude de l'enfant. Edited by J. P. Damsin and J. Langlais. Pp 256. Paris: Elsevier, 2000. ISBN: 2-84299-202-4. EUR 68.60.

The 5-minute orthopaedic consult. Edited by P. D. Sponseller. Pp 400. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2000. ISBN: 1-063-30088-1. \$69.95.