Book Reviews

Dupuytren's disease. By *Raoul Tubiana, Caroline Leclercq, Lawrence C. Hurst, Marie A. Badalamente and Evelyn J. Mackin*. Pp 321. London: Martin Dunitz, 2000. ISBN: 1-85317-475-0. £65.00.

I enjoyed reviewing this book on Dupuytren's disease. The authorship is somewhat more extensive than is described on the fly leaf, with chapters added in an attempt to make the book more comprehensive and timely. This goal has been achieved.

The text was overseen by Lawrence Hurst, and the literary style is consistent and easy to read. The illustrations by Léon Dorn are superb and play an important part in clarifying the anatomy of the hand and the pathological processes associated with Dupuytren's disease. Some of the photographs failed to carry their intended message, and more extensive use of illustrations by Mr Dorn for a second edition would seem appropriate.

I have very few criticisms. Professor Tubiana stresses the degree of contracture in relation to the timing of surgical intervention. I would have thought that some statement on the rate of progression should have been included, since it is the combination of these factors which triggers operative intervention. I tend to intervene early in a rapidly progressive contracture with a smaller extension deficit.

The rehabilitation section does not, to my mind, fully address the issue of the postoperative role of splintage or its duration. Many surgeons splint the fingers in maximal extension routinely for six months, but that protocol may represent unnecessary overtreatment. The role of postoperative splintage remains uncertain and needs clarification.

The senior author concludes the text with a succinct overview of the principles governing Dupuytren's disease which will be particularly useful for trainee surgeons wishing to gain an understanding of this confusing entity. I recommend this book to trainee surgeons in orthopaedics, particularly those with an interest in hand surgery. It will be a useful addition to any orthopaedic library.

Frank Burke.

Controversies in total knee replacement. Edited by *Richard S. Laskin*. Pp 400. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. ISBN: 0-19-263072-5. \$129.00.

On page one of this book there is a comment: "... repeatedly, new technologies have been introduced before being properly and objectively assessed, often resulting in considerable patient morbidity. Total knee arthroplasty has not been immune to this type of problem." Although many aspects of TKA have become uniform and routine, in a number of areas there are still controversies. For example, should the patella be resurfaced?

This is an excellent and timely publication prepared in the hope, if not of solving, then at least of airing and thoroughly

discussing, the differences of opinion. The chapters, ably edited by Dr Richard Laskin from the Hospital for Special Surgery, have been prepared by no less than 46 contributors. The list of authors is a veritable 'Who's Who' in the field of knee surgery. In most chapters, the two opposite sides of a debate are set out by authors promoting and explaining their own views. This is then summarised and the protagonists are taken to task over the controversial points by Dr Laskin himself. There are also two excellent chapters which are not debated, one on the value of knee replacement surgery and the other discussing the documentation of outcomes of this procedure.

Some chapters are extremely topical and valuable. I particularly liked the discussion updating the kinematics of the knee after arthroplasty and the presence or absence of true femoral roll-back. Another helpful chapter discusses the role of osteotomy as against unicompartmental arthroplasty. Other chapters are of less value, e.g., the use of a two-stage procedure for treating infected implants which most of us accept. Some, although well researched and written, simply leave us confused. For example, what is the appropriate prophylaxis for thromboembolic problems after TKA?

This is an excellent book. The individual authors are well chosen, and I particularly enjoyed the comments by Dr Laskin in his role of 'devil's advocate'. Even he admits that, within the centres of excellence, views are changing on an almost daily basis. While this book can certainly give guidance, there are often no clear answers to these questions.

I have few criticisms. Most of the authors are from North America and therefore these are the views of a particular community. I am uncertain regarding the editor's comments about its general value to nursing, physiotherapy and theatre staff; it is a very specialised book which will be particularly useful for senior orthopaedic trainees, general orthopaedic surgeons and specialist knee surgeons.

Peter Earnshaw.

Operating within the law: a practical guide for surgeons and lawyers. By *Bruce Campbell, Ken Callum and Nicholas A. Peacock*. Pp 254. Shropshire: tfm Publishing, 2001. ISBN: 1-903378-05-2. £24.95.

Litigation on clinical negligence began to assume an increasing intrusion into our professional lives some years ago, and has now reached the stage at which every surgeon has to take serious note of the concept of risk management and reporting the adverse incidents. The rapid change in the legal process surrounding litigation on personal injury in the last ten years, of which clinical negligence forms a special part, has been such that any treatise published earlier would by now have become out of date. It is to be hoped that, with the implementation of the Woolf reforms and, the publication of the new Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) (1999), the establishment of clinical governance and of the present NHS complaints procedures, time will now be allowed for digestion. It seems very opportune therefore to introduce this compact manual.

The authors, two surgeons and a barrister, have provided a succinct summary of the various procedures and organisations with which surgeons may become involved as a result of patients

pursuing complaints about their medical care, whatever their merit. It is appropriate and valuable that the content includes definitions of legal and complaints procedures, the responsibilities of medical experts, the place of guidelines, the impact of the Human Rights Act (1998), and a digest of the relevant CPR (1999). The information is easily accessible, up to date, and accompanied by comprehensive references for expanding the detail when necessary. The book even lists on two pages relevant websites for the on-line addict.

The importance of this information to orthopaedic surgeons is summarised in the details of settled surgical claims for the years 1990 to 1998. Orthopaedics and trauma accounted for 22% of the number and 38% of the cost. Litigation, threatened or pursued, has become part of a surgeon's career with which he or she has to come to terms.

I wholeheartedly recommend this commendably practical book to orthopaedic surgeons, trainees, consultants, and other grades alike. They will all have cause to refer to it one day.

M. B. Heywood-Waddington.

Essentials of musculoskeletal care. Edited by *Walter B. Greene*. Pp 756. Rosemont, Illinois: American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, 2001. ISBN: 0-89023-217-0. £88.50.

This seven-hundred page text covers the conditions commonly presenting to the provider of primary care. It gives sufficient information over a wide variety of conditions, carefully and thoughtfully considering the initial mode of management and decisions as to referral, with 'red flags', which indicate the need for surgical evaluation and treatment.

Michael Laurence.

Instructional Course Lectures, Vol. 49. Edited by *Charles T. Price*. Pp 702. Rosemont, Illinois: American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, 2000. ISBN: 0-89203-239-1. £120.50.

Volume 49 of the Instructional Course Lectures from the American Academy covers the following subjects in the usual profound fashion.

Section 1: adult reconstruction of the hip, essentially addressing revision surgery.

Section 2: meniscal repair and allied subjects in the knee.

Section 3: arthroscopy, largely of joints other than the knee.

Sections 4 and 5: chapters on compression neuropathies in the upper limb and the spine.

Section 6: several specific areas in trauma.

Section 7: early management of suspected tumours.

Section 8: headed 'Cartilage and bone' and touches on research into arthritis.

Section 9: management of pain in relation to anaesthesia.

Section 10: volunteer opportunities and the philosophy of technology appropriate to under-resourced countries.

Section 11: infection.

The last two sections are particularly relevant to orthopaedics in countries of the developing world.

Michael Laurence.

The pediatric spine – principles and practice. 2nd edition. Edited by *Stuart L. Weinstein*. Pp 1104. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2001. ISBN: 0-7817-1908-9. \$245.00.

Pediatric spine surgery. 2nd edition. Edited by *Stuart L. Weinstein*. Pp 608. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2001. ISBN: 0-7817-3151-8. \$195.00.

Stuart L. Weinstein has edited two substantial volumes covering, in the first, the general management of spinal disorders in children, and in the second, surgical techniques.

'Principles and practice' discusses the evaluation of the patient with a congenital abnormality, neuromuscular disease and trauma. From the clinical aspect, back pain receives too little attention for what is an increasing challenge for those in this field. The merits of various types of imaging are comprehensively presented and, on the subject of treatment, a chapter on orthoses is very relevant and valuable. There is a large section on congenital and developmental abnormalities, as would be expected in such a text, and full coverage of inflammatory, infective and neoplastic conditions.

The volume on surgery discusses most interventions and the majority of artificial implants. The principles behind each technique are adequately debated. There is an important chapter on thoracoscopy and the surgical procedures which can be performed through the pleural cavity.

These are outstanding volumes in both content and style of production, to be thoroughly recommended to all those involved in the surgical treatment of paediatric spinal disorders.

H. Noordeen.

Photographic atlas of practical anatomy I and II. By *Walter Thiel*. Pp 844 and 852. Berlin: Springer, 1997 and 1999, respectively. ISBN: 3-540-61195-9 and 3-540-62239-X (2 volumes each). DM 498.00 (I) and DM 498.00 (II).

The academic subject of Anatomy is no longer evolving because of its limitations. Once the body has been thoroughly revealed, only improved imaging with brighter colours can contribute further. The competitive subjects involving function (Physiology, Biochemistry, Genetics and Associated Diseases) have forced Anatomy from the undergraduate curriculum. There is therefore a place for these four beautifully illustrated volumes from Springer. They present the broad anatomy which is never seen nowadays by the trainee who is obliged to orientate through various endoscopes without perhaps ever seeing an anatomical dissection.

Dr Thiel presents pictorial images of what are clearly cadaver dissections with the slightly nauseating appearance of bloodless tissue. Volume I covers the abdomen and lower limbs and Volume II the head, neck, upper limb and thorax. Exposures are generous to a fault and must never be considered as, in any stretch of the imagination, 'surgical'. These maps of the body are published in pairs, the first presenting colour photographs of the broad surface with elegant descriptions of how the specimens were exposed, and the companion volume showing the identical picture in black and white with clear arrowing of the myriad submerged and endangered details.

With the passing of the dissection room, these volumes are a permanent record of what the current student might have been shown in days gone by. It is the ultimate in the art of cartography.

Michael Laurence.