Advances in Tissue Banking – Volume 6

Edited by G. O. Phillips.

Pp 534. Singapore, etc: World Scientific Publishing Ltd, 2002. ISBN: 981-238-088-4. £63.00.

The problem of banking is secondary to successful allogenic transplantation. The first of these only becomes a problem in response to success of the second. This wide-ranging collection of essays from many parts of the world, contains a wealth of rather disparate information, likely to excite the scientists and clinicians in orthopaedic research. As with most fruitful stimuli, it brings in concepts unlikely to be encountered within our narrow speciality to whom this is warmly recommended.

M. Laurence

Surgical techniques in total knee arthroplasty

Edited by G. R. Scuderi and A. Tria

Pp 773. Berlin, Germany: Springer, 2002. ISBN: 0-3879-8389-9. €219.00.

Following the rapid development of knee replacement surgery over the last 30 years or so, we are currently in a period of relative stability. A textbook of surgical techniques is timely, and is likely to remain topical and relevant for a reasonable period of time. This book, with over 770 pages, 92 chapters and 113 expert contributors, is certainly comprehensive. Every aspect of surgical technique in primary and revision surgery is covered, together with a few important subjects which are not strictly technique, such as outcome data and DVT. It is very much a reference work rather than a book to read from cover to cover. Parts will be useful to trainees, for example surgical procedures, component position and fixation, but its greatest value is in the chapters on difficult and uncommon problems. The answer is not always provided because often there is none, but there is always a rational, evidence-based approach. The information on such diverse subjects as flexion contracture, patellar tendon disruption, surgery after previous femoral and tibial osteotomy and extra-articular deformity is invaluable. This should be on every knee replacement surgeon's bookshelf and ideally in every elective orthopaedic operating suite.

No book of this nature is going to satisfy everyone and I have two comments to make by way of suggestion rather than criticism. There are only six pages on unicompartamental replacement. This is possibly because the title quotes Total Knee Arthroplasty, but I should not wish to quibble as to whether this requires that the patella must be replaced. The increasing interest in and suc-

cess of surgery restricted to the medial compartment justifies a more detailed approach to localised disease in the future. Computer assisted surgery and navigation systems are not mentioned but they may well become a significant part of clinical practice in the foreseeable future.

To use an electronic phrase, during the time that this book has been in my study, while in the process of writing this review, it has received as many "hits" as any other on my shelves and I am sure will continue to do so. I recommend it without hesitation.

R. L. Allum

World Health Organisation classification of tumours: pathology and genetics of tumours of soft tissue and bone

Edited by C. D. M. Fletcher, K. K. Unni and F. Mertens

Pp 427. Lyon, France: IARC Press, 2002. ISBN: 9-2832-2413-2. £53.00.

It is nearly ten years since the last WHO Soft Tissue and Bone Tumour Classification. Since then, there have been significant developments in our knowledge of bone and soft tissue tumours, particularly with regard to the recognition of new entities and the discovery of numerous characteristic and pathogenetically important molecular changes. As such, this is an important and timely publication which clarifies our current understanding of this complex field. The editors, assisted by approximately 150 authors, have set out to achieve a comprehensive tumour classification with essential information on the clinical characteristics, histopathology and molecular pathology of each entity.

There are two separate sections, one on tumours of soft tissue and the other on tumours of bone. Each of these major sections has a good introduction to the field, including, briefly, clinical and radiological features of bone and soft tissue tumours. Both sections are divided into individual chapters dealing with the major histogenetic groups, for example, adipocytic and fibroblastic myoblastic tumours, and within these chapters are sections on each distinct pathological entity. Important recent developments are highlighted at the beginning of each chapter.

Given such a strict systems approach, it is inevitable that some soft tissue tumours are not included, for example, those of nerves which are included in the WHO classification on tumours of the nervous system.

The book is well illustrated (in colour), referenced and indexed. Subheadings are consistent and logical throughout (i.e. definition, ECD-O code, synonyms, epidemiology and sites of involvement). It is a considerable achievement to condense so much into a relatively slim volume (427 pages). It is an essential addition to all departments of pathology, orthopaedics and radiology and cannot be ignored by anyone with a declared interest in the diagnosis and management of musculoskeletal neoplasia.

D. C. Mangham