Shock wave applications in musculoskeletal disorders

By *J-B Rompe*

Pp 82. Thieme Publishing Group, 2002. ISBN: 313130121X. £74.00.

Most orthopaedic surgeons associate extracorporeal shock waves with the treatment of renal and ureteric stones. However, about ten years ago this type of application was transferred to orthopaedic disorders and gastroenterology. Dr. Rompe first gives the background basic science and evidence from work in animals. The mechanism of the healing effect of the shock waves is not clear. He then describes trials of its use in chronic problems such as plantar fasciitis, tennis elbow, calcification of supraspinatus tendons, and non-unions. The treatment was felt as unpleasant by all patients with painful heels, but not so unpleasant as local steroid injections. Patients with tennis elbow developed petechiae at the site of application. The book provides evidence to support the case for extracorporeal shock waves in orthopaedic practice, but further work is needed to make a conclusive case for the sceptical.

Leslie Klenerman

Fractures of the distal radius: a practical approach to management

By *D. L. Fernandez and J. B. Jupiter*

Pp 407. Springer, 2003. ISBN: 0-387-95194-4. \$169.

If there is one subject about which every Trauma and Orthopaedic surgeon feels that he is an expert, it is the subject of the distal radius. However, it is partly because we feel so knowledgeable about the management of these injuries that we have perhaps not always felt the need to look at new developments in the field. We are now further hindered by financial constraints within the NHS and by guidelines which make it more difficult to introduce change. The first edition of this book was published in 1996 and was recognised as an authoritative work by two experienced trauma surgeons; they have quite rightly produced a second edition in order to develop and update the first.

The basic format has been retained but an additional chapter has been included on the distal radioulnar joint because of the many developments there have been in the diagnosis and treatment of both acute and chronic changes following injury. Other chapters have been modified for other reasons; the chapter on epidemiology has more information on studies from Europe. The Surgical Techniques chapter has been expanded considerably. It includes a section on New Development such as the "pi plate" and a useful description of the new materials available as substitutes for grafted bone. Other useful additions are the descriptions of ligamentous injury associated with intra-articular fractures.

This book remains an impressive and comprehensive work on the subject with over 400 illustrations and many interesting quotations which punctuate and enhance the well-written text. Perhaps one of the greatest strengths of the book is that it shows us that maybe there is much more we can learn about these common, but sometimes very debilitating injuries, and hopefully our patients will benefit accordingly.

Peter Lunn

The tourniquet manual: principles and practice

By *L. Klenerman*

Pp 106. Springer-Verlag UK, 2003. ISBN: 1-85233-706-0. £60.

The use of a tourniquet in orthopaedic surgery is a universal practice that is accepted with little question. Leslie Klenerman has had a life-long interest in the tourniquet and has conducted a considerable amount of research on its use and misuse. He has now written this short account of the history, principles, value and the method of its employment. He has produced a succinct summary of the physiology and application of the tourniquet, drawing attention to the necessity for careful positioning of the device and the problems that may be encountered if the basic principles are ignored. He gives a full account of the complications that may arise with emphasis on the reperfusion syndrome, and outlines the steps to be taken if these are to be avoided.

The medicolegal aspects of misuse of the tourniquet are of increasing importance. Professor Klenerman has produced a very readable account that must be read by all who may require use of this instrument.

Frank Horan