Surgical exposures in orthopaedics: the anatomic approach (Third edition). Vol. 3.

By S. Hoppenfeld and P. de Boer

Pp 681. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2003. ISBN: 0-78174-228-5. \$199.00.

This new edition should be available to all orthopaedic surgeons: trainees and consultants alike. It describes in great detail more surgical approaches than any individual would use. For that reason it may be superfluous to the needs of a modern specialist. However, within each section there is a comprehensive choice of surgical exposures, including a detailed description of open meniscectomy. Although many would consider this to be of historical interest only, the authors point out that this remains a useful exposure, and many trainees in particular may otherwise be unfamiliar with it. The surgical exposures are described clearly, and for each approach the individual dangers are highlighted before a separate description of the applied surgical anatomy is given.

Drawing from the example of A. K. Henry, the authors have indicated which exposures are extensile and how this may be achieved, while at the same time showing the dangers and limitations of those which are clearly not extensile.

The book is lavishly illustrated, with numerous clearly-drawn and well-labelled colour pictures. The inclusion of sections describing arthroscopy of the shoulder and knee, though not comprehensive, are welcome modernising additions. This is a book which should be of use to all but the most 'super-specialised' orthopaedic surgeons.

D. Dempster

Practice of intramedullary locked nails

Edited by I. Kempf and J. S. Leung

Pp 182. Berlin: Springer, 2002. ISBN: 3-54064-079-7. £73.00

This book would seem to promise a lot, but actually delivers very little. It is a slim volume (170 pages) from the Springer stable and, as one would expect, is beautifully put together. The line drawings are perfect, the radiographs very well produced and the intra-operative images, which are often difficult to obtain, are also good.

Unfortunately, this is not a generic book on intramedullary nailing but a highly specific book on intramedullary nailing performed in a particular way with a particular nailing system.

In the chapter on humeral nailing written by Seidel, only one type of humeral nail is mentioned. So, if you happen to use this nail it's probably a very good chapter. The potential adverse effects of the humeral nail on the rotator cuff are not mentioned.

The chapter on tibial nailing is very nicely illustrated but again, rather didactic and specific. For instance, it is possible to nail a tibia without using skeletal traction. Again, detailed operative technique is for a particular nail. The chapter states "The patellar tendon is split longitudinally". Arguably, the intramedullary canal of the tibia is slightly medial. The chapter on femoral nailing details the use of a standard femoral nail but the roles of retrograde femoral nails and supracondylar nails are not discussed.

M. Barry

Musculoskeletal medicine

Edited by J. Bernstein

Pp 490. Rosemont, Illinois: American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, 2003. ISBN: 0-89203-294-4. \$85

This is an elegant, educational volume introducing the student to the anatomy of the musculoskeletal system and thence to its physiology and microscopy. It is rich in information but does not quite succeed in taking the place of actual dissection nor of the opportunity to handle dissected specimens. Thoughtful forewords and introductions raise the controversies surrounding early education in medical training.

The first hundred pages of the book are addressed to the junior medical student. The chapters on disorders are less successful in that a degree of critical evaluation is required for comparison with the normal, which is rather thinly displayed. In his preface Dr Bernstein expresses the hope that the reader will already have had, *inter alia*, an atlas of anatomy to hand. Alas, the effort to make clear through simple language and diagrams is occasionally confusing. For example on page 39 on the disposition of the major arteries, it seems as if the femoral artery lies behind the hip.

The book falls between two admirable stools. Starting with the elementary basics, its extrapolation to the pathological and therapeutic can stand on slightly uncertain foundations. I am not sure that it is ideal for students but its general philosophical messages should be read by every teacher of the subject. Dr Bernstein establishes his reputation but I fear the subject is too broad.

M. Laurence