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Insall & Scott Surgery of the Knee Fourth edition. Edited by W. N. Scott

Pp. 2048. Philadelphia: Churchill Livingstone 2006. ISBN: 0-44306-671-X.
£290.00.

Although this fourth edition carries a somewhat 'American touch', the incorporation of young up-and-coming names in orthopaedic surgery provides a refreshing impetus.

Almost 80 pages have been dedicated to minimally-invasive and computer-assisted surgery, providing an excellent source of information about this new frontier of orthopaedic surgery. The section on bone tumours has been extended through further subdivision. Less emphasis has been placed on the treatment of fractures. Although most trauma aspects are covered, a more elaborate discussion, especially on treating peri-prosthetic fractures would have been desirable. Although chapter titles like 'Choosing your implant' or 'Understanding knee arthroplasty kinematics' represent a welcome addition, the omission of basic knee biomechanics is a sad one and requires the reader to obtain such knowledge elsewhere. Chapters on the posterior cruciate ligament, posterolateral corner injuries and ligament rehabilitation have been extended. The latter now includes a flow chart with an exercise algorithm and photographs, which will surely delight not only the surgeon but also the physiotherapist. Two entire chapters have been dedicated to scoring systems and outcome scales, allowing surgeons interested in clinical research to find the most appropriate validation tool.

The increased number of illustrations and the addition of colour has further enhanced its value and represents a significant improvement on previous editions.

Overall, this edition appears to be more practically orientated by attempting to convey a hands-on approach to the orthopaedic practitioner. It makes excellent reading throughout, and may represent the gold standard by which other books are to be measured. Despite an ongoing trend towards sub-specialisation, *Insall & Scott Surgery of the Knee* remains successful in providing comprehensive cover of an ever-growing subject.

O. Schindler

Textbook of Musculoskeletal Medicine Edited by M. Hutson and R. Ellis

Pp. 550. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. ISBN: 0-19-263050-4.
£175.

Musculoskeletal medicine is very much in the spotlight. A variety of professional groups provide treatment for patients under this

heading despite the fact that it is not a recognised speciality for a CCST (Certificate Completion Specialist Training). Physiotherapists, osteopaths, chiropractors, rheumatologists, sports physicians, rehabilitation physicians, orthopaedic surgeons, anaesthetists, and general practitioners all claim a stake. Musculoskeletal problems represent about 20% of new patients presenting in a GP practice. Add to this the paucity of evidence for most treatments in common use, and the result is that few are in agreement about who should do what and to whom. Decisions on how services should be provided are clouded by mistrust, controversy and misunderstanding. This book attempts to bring these differing factions together.

I was brought up on Cyriax's textbook of orthopaedic medicine. Subsequently I added *Apley's System of Orthopaedics and Fractures* to my shelf, mainly I suspect because I had been taught by both of them. This textbook has updated much from these works to include all the modern scanning images and arthroscopic techniques. The sections on dysfunction include chapters on neurodynamics, somatic dysfunction, and tensegrity, as well as the more familiar fibromyalgia. These chapters seem to cover very similar ground, but each with a very different perspective. Unfortunately there is no attempt by the various authors to integrate any of these concepts.

The bulk of the book covers examination and regional disorders with an emphasis on the lower limb. Thoracic outlet syndrome (rare in my experience) receives a section to itself. Endoscopy of the lumbar spine, to identify and treat painful back problems (a controversial subject), has a section to itself, with a single reference.

The final section on treatment has passages on massage, injection techniques, exercises and pain management, all of which make interesting reading, even if the 'evidence base' for most of these treatments remains poor.

This is a brave attempt to bring together a wide variety of knowledge from clinicians with very differing approaches to the treatment of musculoskeletal problems. There is no attempt by the editors to bridge these widely-differing methods but it does provide a foundation to unite the various, and seemingly conflicting, approaches to the treatment of musculoskeletal conditions. If you want an orthodox textbook, excluding that which is not evidence-based, this is not the book for you; but if you want to find out what the broader church of musculoskeletal clinicians is doing, and why, and to confront your own prejudices, then you should have this book on your shelf.

J. R. Jenner