Turek's orthopaedic principles and their application

Edited by S. L. Weinstein and J. A. Buckwalter

Pp. 768. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2005. ISBN: 0-78174-298-6. \$139.

The sixth edition of this renowned text has been reworked to reflect the 'dramatic changes that have occurred in orthopaedic surgery' since the fifth edition. The editors have included much new material and condensed the whole. The result is not only an American, but rather an Iowan audit, covering a breadth of subjects from the congenital and metabolic, through fractures, the bulk of rheumatological inflammatory disease, biomechanical, neurological and neoplastic conditions. Part III is divided into separate anatomical areas.

The text, in double columns, is compact to the point of asphyxia, but the illustrations, varying between the good and the crude, are generously spread to be sometimes wasteful of space. The question must be raised as to whether it is still possible to cover such a broad canvas in a single volume and satisfy both the novice to the subject and the experienced surgeon. The editors quote the objective, stated in the first edition, to stimulate the young and inform the mature. It is interesting that the first edition, reviewed by Coltart in this *Journal* in 1962, was thought to be too concentrated. But this mammoth task should not go unappreciated; it contains matter of great value and in great quantity. It is not a book to read, but to have access to.

M. Laurence

Atlas of corrective surgical procedures commonly used in leprosy

By H. Srinivasan.

Pp. 207. Chennai, India: World Health Organisation, 2004.

This 'how-to-do-it' atlas is an attempt to bring together the commonly-used procedures for correction of deformities caused by leprosy. This is a condition that very few surgeons in the developed world will come across professionally unless they travel to work in Africa or Asia and yet many of the techniques described are those

that are commonly used in restoration of function by tendon transfer in peripheral nerve injuries. Some may see the descriptions and diagrams as simplistic; I would say that simplicity is the key to good understanding and I read this manual with that in mind.

The book is by no means a comprehensive review of all the procedures available but, as the author states in his preface, that is not the aim. It is divided into three main parts relating to hands, feet and face (eyes and ears). The hand takes up three quarters of the book. The first four chapters relate to anatomy and methods of tendon harvesting and anastomosis. The remaining chapters on the hand and foot are divided according to the deformities to be corrected. The chapters on the eye relate to correction of eyelid paralysis and of ectropion, emergency tarsorrhaphy for the ulcerating cornea and restoration of eyebrows. The chapter on the ear deals with the correction of the megalobe, a gross peculiarity of leprosy.

All procedures are described step-by-step and relate to diagrams on each facing page. This format makes the procedures easy to follow and though the diagrams are simple and do require some knowledge of the anatomy in 'real' people, they help considerably in understanding how to perform each procedure.

My criticisms are few. I would like to have seen a short comment from the author, who clearly has an enormous experience, as to his favoured technique for each deformity. I would also like to have seen a short comment on decision-making with regard to timing, selection of procedures, the order in which they should be carried out and a little more on post-operative care and rehabilitation protocol. I think this book will be useful to hand surgeons in their everyday practice, though of course most of the procedures can be found in other standard hand surgery textbooks. To anyone who is going to do a fellowship in the third world or work with leprosy patients, it is a brilliant overview of what to do.

This book is clearly the labour of a tireless enthusiast. It is a reflection of his desire to pass on his enormous and valuable experience to those of us who are less exposed to surgery for what one hopes is a condition that will be eradicated completely in the future. Until such time, and it will be a lengthy interval, this book will be a very helpful guide.

How wonderful that this manual is available, free of charge, to anyone who asks for one from Dr Srinivasan, Flat 25, First Seaward Road, Chennai-600 041, India. I hope that anyone who does request a copy will donate generously to an appropriate charity that helps people with leprosy.

R. Eckersley