
It is natural that about a third of this book should be devoted to the common injuries of athletics, but its objects are far different. The author intends those who are likely to treat athletes in their practices to understand them as individuals and to acquire knowledge of the special physiology of athletics and to have a working acquaintance with athletic techniques. Unless we have this knowledge, the young men and women who ask our help will find the consultation “as frustrating as trying to direct a foreign tourist who doesn’t understand a word of English.”

The book is written particularly for the general practitioner, but could be read by any well trained physical training instructor or athletic coach. The orthopaedic surgeon will learn from it how to understand the athlete and his problems, and we should all read it, although the elementary anatomy and physiology in Chapters 4 to 8 can be omitted. Chapters 9 to 14, which describe various athletic injuries, are interesting and accurate, but are not intended to be informative to the specialist. The first and last chapters by the editor himself are particularly worth while and instructive to all of us.—W. D. Coltart.


This monograph describes in detail traumatic lesions of the ligaments of the knee and congenital, traumatic and degenerative changes in the menisci. It is well set out in a very readable manner and the illustrations and diagrams are excellent. The first part is concerned with the anatomy of the ligaments and menisci correlated with the function of the joint.

Various methods are outlined for treating ligamentous injuries but the evaluation of results is not very critical. It would seem reasonable to expect rather more guidance in a work which is so detailed in other ways.

It is difficult to share the author’s obvious enthusiasm for arthrography, for which he claims 95 per cent accurate diagnosis. This is a difficult technique, which in many departments may actually be misleading. It is probable that as much or more information can be obtained from a good history and examination of the joint. Indeed, it is in the remaining 5 per cent of cases in which there is difficulty in diagnosis that an exploratory arthrotomy may be required in any case.

The author states that the conventional vertical incision for meniscectomy is best used, but goes on to say that this is only made possible because arthrography has removed the necessity for a wide transverse incision sectioning the collateral ligaments! Most orthopaedic surgeons in this country would disagree with this.

This work lacks sufficient detail concerning results and it is difficult to know for whom it is written. It can, however, be recommended to those with an especial interest in the knee.—J. P. Jackson.


This is a peculiar little volume but none the less interesting for that. Its contents are an ill assorted collection of subjects discussed at staff conferences at the Raymond Poincaré Hospital, some of which are calculated to raise the British eyebrow. The division of the medial collateral ligament of the knee joint and subsequent immobilisation in plaster up to the thirtieth day is considered a reasonable approach for a medial meniscectomy and the immobilisation does not appear to cause much concern as far as after-treatment is concerned. Patelloplasty with preserved skin in preference to excision of the patella is recommended after fracture and for osteoarthritis.

The discussion on the indications for the treatment of unilateral and bilateral osteoarthritis of the hip is followed by an introduction to the new Judet prosthesis resembling the Moore prosthesis.

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but sitting on the obliquely sectioned head in preference to the divided neck. The use of external fixation of bones with screwed rods clamped to a bar is discussed, and subsequently the use of compression in open fractures by the same means.

To stimulate one further each article is followed by a question and answer section by Robert Judet. This television technique, which has invaded the newspapers, now appears to be creeping into medical writing. There is a depressing simplicity in some of the questions and an alarming dogmatism in some of the answers.

This provocative little volume should not be read by those who prefer to do the same thing day after day.—J. G. BONNIN.


The above Congress was sponsored by the Armed Forces and the Public Health Service of the U.S.A. under the auspices of the American Institute of Basic Sciences. The papers give an excellent idea of the avenues which are being explored in attempts to improve the efficacy of treatment of burns. Of particular interest are the papers on the development of toxins in burns and treatment by anti-toxic convalescent serum. The last section contains a series of thoughtful summaries of the outstanding problems. It is a pity that the time lapse between the Congress and the appearance of the proceedings (two years) is so long, since this detracts somewhat from its value.—I. F. K. MUIR.


We welcomed warmly the first edition of this pithy, wise introduction to clinical surgery. We said that it reflected the sparkle of its author. It still does. It is as good as ever: in fact it has hardly changed.—H. Jackson BURROWS.

BOOKS OF ORTHOPAEDIC INTEREST


Mainly of interest to commercial manufacturers and central sterile supply departments, this symposium includes useful sections on sterilisation by ionising radiations and by ethylene oxide.


Some orthopaedic surgeons photograph, some are photographed and some have photographs thrust before them. Whatever their category they will find an increased interest in the subject from perusing this volume. Chapter 19 dismisses orthopaedic conditions briefly, but it is in the general explanation of photographic techniques that the book excels; it serves as a good general introduction to the subject regardless of the medical aspects.


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