
The text is divided into clinical, pathological and radiological sections. Where it is merited there are also references to the etiology, pathogenesis and laboratory findings. On occasions the extent of the radiological text is relatively short, it is however comprehensive and clear. The literary style is precise and agreeable; prolixity is avoided.

The book was presumably written for radiologists, but it can be inferred that it is important to the orthopaedic surgeon or any clinician who suspects and wishes to identify a pathological picture. This identification is made possible by the extent to which all lesions are illustrated. The radiographs have been carefully selected and beautifully reproduced. Their clarity and number indicate that no compromise has been made with expense. This is an ambitious radiological work tempered by a sane clinical approach to the subject and it should appeal particularly to the orthopaedic surgeon.

The reader derives some satisfaction and his appreciation of many conditions is heightened by an attempt to explain the ultimate radiological picture on rational principles. This is exemplified in one of the early chapters on dysplasias. These are attributed to ‘growth mechanisms rather than on the physical characteristics of the bone deformities or their clinical appearances.” Omitted in this chapter are the extravagant dysplastic variations in growth, which are in any case innumerable and unclassifiable.

It may be said that the classification of diseases which has been adopted in many chapters is faulty, that the bibliography omits important contributions, and that the space devoted to some conditions is unbalanced. For example the description of haemophilia compares in length with that of rheumatoid arthritis, and there are sixteen illustrations of osteoid osteoma though there are not sixteen variations in the appearance of osteoid osteoma.

This is an exceptional addition to the literature. The illustrations are of outstanding quality and the general merit of the volume has probably not been surpassed in recent years.—Campbell Golding.


This recent addition to shorter textbooks from University Medical Texts presents the subjects in a compact and inexpensive form, particularly for undergraduates and for general practitioners. There is a comprehensive, regional survey of trauma in sixteen chapters, including a short chapter on standard amputations, with useful specialist contributions on chest, abdominal and head injuries. Ten chapters devoted to orthopaedics include short accounts of neoplasms, neurological disorders and generalised disorders of bone. No literary references or bibliography are given.

In seeking to make the volume compact, there has been, inevitably, deliberate omission of a good deal of special detail, some of which seems important for undergraduate teaching. No doubt much of this detail may be gleaned from other fields of the medical curriculum, but some items could be included with advantage here. There is no mention of electrodiagnostic testing of nerve function, scant guidance in the use and dosage of antibiotics for bone and joint tuberculosis, and no description of the toxic phenomena or drug resistance which may be encountered. The same policy is evident when the reader is warned against indiscriminate use of Butazolidin and steroids because of ‘unpleasant side effects” which are not further described.

It is in the section devoted to trauma that the omissions are more important. One would have liked to see more than six lines devoted to union of fractures, and in the useful introductory section on first aid, it is more practical to describe the features of the currently used inflatable plastic envelope splint than to describe and illustrate such archaic items as the long Liston splint and Carr’s splint. In the management of skin loss, degloving injuries and their replacement by the same defatted skin deserve some mention. Many surgeons would question the value of adhesive strapping as rational treatment for acromio-clavicular dislocation.

In the orthopaedic section there are some arguable omissions of substance, but in the main the cover seems adequate for undergraduate purposes. There is no mention of the orthopaedic effects...
of caisson disease, peroneal muscle dystrophy, transient synovitis of the hip in children or infantile cortical hyperostosis, and it would have been worth mentioning, where appropriate, the significance of serum mineral and alkaline phosphatase estimations.

The book offers much in a small compass but it relies rather heavily on being supplemented by other reading and by clinical tutorials to provide a sound background of basic principles for the approach to these subjects. The volume is compact, the type is clear and its illustrations, confined to line drawings, adequate. In an irksome number of instances they are wrongly captioned, e.g., Figures 30, 54, 96, 113, 114, 124. Half the illustration in Figure 96 is printed upside down and Figure 98 could well be omitted as misleading in regard to the position of the manipulator’s hands. These and numerous text misprints can no doubt be easily corrected in future editions.

The effort to provide a low cost, quality textbook is commendable. Although it is unlikely to displace other currently available textbooks, many students and practitioners will no doubt find this paperback volume acceptable as an easily digested survey of the subjects.—J. T. BROWN.

Fatigue Fractures. A Clinical Study. By James M. Morris, M.D., Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery; Research Associate, Biomechanics Laboratory, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, California; and Loren D. Blickenstaff, M.D., Major, U.S. Army Medical Corps. 25 cm. (10 in.) × 18 cm. (7 in.). Pp. xiii : 217, with many figures. Index. 1967. Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, Publisher. Price $15.50.

This excellent monograph is based on a study of 700 cases of fatigue fractures of the lower limb seen at an infantry training centre. The condition is clearly defined, and the importance and difficulties in differential diagnosis from pathological fractures and from pseudo-fractures in such conditions as osteomalacia and Milkman’s syndrome are well illustrated. The danger of overlooking a stress fracture of the femoral neck is emphasised, although the treatment of this lesion by the insertion of multiple pins does not appear to be particularly successful.

It is a valuable atlas of the condition and contains everything a surgeon need know about stress fractures.—Denys Wainwright.

BOOKS OF ORTHOPAEDIC INTEREST


The third edition indicates why this text is such a popular standard textbook. It improves on the excellence of its predecessors; the second edition was reviewed in the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, 1964, 46-B, 363.


The cellular changes in the metaphysis and particularly in the lower end of the radius are discussed after annotation of extensive animal experiments on the rabbit, and their significance in post-traumatic osteoporosis is enlarged upon.


Anyone anxious to learn how the common amenities of the modern house can be adapted to the need of disabled persons will find all the answers in this book, which covers not only the necessary measurements involved but a list of the firms capable of supplying the apparatus necessary or making the alterations required


Volume I of a full and detailed textbook of the treatment of trauma has appeared from Bucarest. It commences with generalities and then discusses fractures of the skull, vertebral column and thorax. No indications are given as to the distribution of the contents in further volumes. Clearly the subjects are being dealt with exhaustively and according to accepted standards. It is interesting to notice that in a general textbook such as this, a disproportionate amount of space is devoted to the facial skeleton, which we would think more