
This is a new book written primarily as an instruction manual for orthopaedic house surgeons, junior registrars, nursing and physiotherapy staff. The author is to be commended on preparing a meticulous and comprehensive account of orthopaedic appliances and traction in common use today. Traction systems and their principles, main complications and contra-indications are discussed inclusive of almost all varieties available for the lower limb and spine, with clear explanations on the setting up of pulleys, cords and weights. The author describes the types of spinal supports available, and splints for C.D.H., leg calipers, braces, and orthopaedic footwear are covered in detail. The main walking aids receive the same logical description. The sections in small print on the techniques of measuring, checking and even prescribing such appliances are especially useful.

The final chapters cover plaster-of-Paris care, the use and handling of tourniquets and a section on the technique of making Plastazote splints.

The format is clear and the wording precise, as are the good quality line drawings. The only significant omission concerns the upper limb, which is scarcely mentioned, and it is questionable if the chapter on Plastazote adds a great deal to the book. Nevertheless, this book marshals a wealth of information not available in standard texts which those concerned with the treatment of musculo-skeletal disorders often acquire only by accident, and thus fills a considerable gap in the orthopaedic literature for not only trainees but many of their more experienced colleagues as well.

The price and size of the book preclude its use as a pocket reference for junior staff, but it justly deserves a place on the shelves of every orthopaedic and accident ward as well as out-patient department.—David Nairn.


Dr Hannington-Kiff writes this most readable book from his experience as Director of the Pain Clinic at Frimley Park Hospital. He starts with the difficult problem of definition of pain and the theories of pain production, and outlines a comprehensive and succinct scheme for pain relief. The interesting chapter on Clinical Pain Puzzles will be helpful to all clinicians who have to deal with these often trying and baffling problems. Obstetric and dental analgesia have not been forgotten. The sections on emergency analgesia, orthopaedic anaesthesia and post-operative analgesia will provide most helpful reading for physicians and surgeons. The principles, use, limitations and complications of nerve blocks in the treatment of long-standing pain are well set out. All the traditionally accepted methods of pain relief are dealt with and Dr Kiff has added sections on acupuncture, manipulative techniques and hypnosis.

It is easy for a patient to be submerged by the sheer weight of treatment but this book emphasises that the whole patient is involved and that the multi-disciplinary approach is the correct one. The "philosophy" of pain occupies the last chapter. Perhaps the author may be persuaded to enlarge upon this some time.

This book is to be recommended to all who have to deal with pain problems and it may well awaken many to an interest in the subject. It is nicely produced, it has plenty of references, it sits comfortably in the hand and is good value. Surgeon and anaesthetist will want their own copy and their departmental libraries would be wise to invest in one.—C. D. T. James.


The articles which make up this volume are based on papers presented at the congress of the Swiss Orthopaedic Society in 1972. This symposium was organised in cooperation with several guest lecturers, mainly from the University of Strasbourg, whose work in this field merits special mention. The lectures are arranged in this volume in logical sequence: anatomy, primary degenerative and post-traumatic changes of the lower cervical spine (C.3-C.7) and their treatment; miscellaneous disorders of the lower cervical spine; the upper cervical spine (C.1-C.2): anomalies, disorders and surgical treatment; assessment of cervical spine injuries for compensation. Each article deals with a particular aspect of the problem. Taken as a whole, this volume offers a comprehensive discussion of recent research, classification and surgical treatment of these disorders, together with some possible conservative methods. It should help the surgeon in his frequently difficult choice of procedure in this region.—Charles Petri.


This monograph of 103 pages is a record of research in great depth in order to evaluate the present growth status of children and estimate their future growth potential. The investigation is based on a study of 800 children from southwestern Ohio.

The authors stress the difficulties of the Bayley and Pinneau (1952) tables, since they do not report prediction errors or sample sizes of various subgroups of children. A new method is described, called the RWT tables after the names of the authors. It employs the present recumbent length, weight and skeletal age of the child and the stature of each parent as the basis for prediction. These data can be recorded at one examination, and the figures are applicable from one to sixteen years in boys and from one to fourteen years in girls. In general it is stated that in all except older children the RWT method is more accurate than the Bayley Pinneau method.

This monograph represents many years of dedication and concludes by the inclusion of over 200 references; it must be an excellent source of knowledge for paediatricians, endocrinologists and, to a lesser degree, orthopaedic surgeons concerned with the special problems of growth of children and prediction of adult stature.—A. H. C. Ratliff.