

Book Reviews

Critiques de livres

ATLAS OF ADULT FOOT AND ANKLE SURGERY.

Lowell D. Lutter. 342 pp. Illust. Mosby-Year Book, Inc., St. Louis. 1997. Can\$211. ISBN 0-8016-6280-X

Overall rating: Excellent

Strengths: A well-written and well-illustrated atlas that reduces the broad field of foot and ankle surgery to easily understood procedures

Weaknesses: Too simplified for the foot and ankle subspecialist

Audience: Residents, general orthopedic surgeons and aspiring foot and ankle surgeons

This text is inclusive in covering most of the commonly seen problems in foot and ankle surgery. The language is clear, concise and complemented by beautifully detailed illustrations.

The book is divided into several sections. The initial section, chapters 1 to 3, is devoted to general considerations. These include a description of the standard surgical instruments for the foot and ankle surgeon, appropriate skin incisions for the foot and bone grafting techniques.

The second section, chapters 4 to 13, deals with reconstruction problems. Included are chapters on the forefoot and hallux deformities, lesser toe deformities and arthrodeses in the hindfoot. Later chapters deal with tarsal coalition, posterior tibial dysfunction and Achilles' tendon problems.

The last section covers trauma of the foot. Once again this section is well planned and divided into chapters dealing with forefoot, mid-foot and hindfoot trauma. Also in this section are chapters dealing with chronic ligamentous instability of the ankle, peroneal tendon subluxation and ankle arthroscopy. The final chapter describes disorders of the toenails.

In my practice I see a broad range

of foot and ankle problems. Within the community of foot and ankle surgeons there are wide-ranging opinions regarding procedures of the foot. This book presents a well-balanced approach. Lutter gives several surgical options for common problems such as hallux valgus without presenting the 150 procedures described for bunion surgery. He does not attempt to justify why one procedure is more valuable than another or why one opinion is correct. He presents the options and the surgical techniques and allows the reader to proceed at his own discretion. Each operation described is accompanied by a visual presentation of the procedure.

I highly recommend this book to all general orthopedic surgeons and all residents-in-training for a broad, well-balanced perspective on foot and ankle surgery.

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HANDBOOK OF PHYSIOLOGY. SECTION 13: COMPARATIVE PHYSIOLOGY. Volumes I and II. Edited by William H. Dantzer. 1824 pp. Illust. Published for the American Physiological Society by Oxford University Press Inc., New York. Oxford University Press Canada, Toronto. 1997. Can\$421.95 (2 volumes). ISBN 0-19-507419-X (2 volumes)

Overall rating: Excellent

Strengths: Authoritative and up-to-date reference book on comparative physiology, covering organ systems of interest to surgeons of all specialties

Weaknesses: Relevance to clinical surgery is indirect

Audience: Surgical scientists, departmental and medical school libraries

These two volumes represent Section 13 of the updated *Handbook of Physiology* series published for the American Physiological Society. This massive series of books represents a critical, comprehensive presentation of physiological knowledge and concepts and has for years served as an authoritative reference source in physiology. The authors chosen to write various chapters are leaders in their field, and this is reflected in the quality of their presentations. The books contain well-drawn figures, and the lists of references are extensive. For example, the chapter on vertebrate locomotion, which is of potential interest to orthopedic surgeons and rehabilitation specialists, contains 2219 references.

This is not a book for a surgeon to look up answers to a clinical problem so that it can be quickly applied to the next patient. However, for a more profound understanding of the pathophysiology of the problem, he or she may wish to turn to this book. In the chapter on the vertebrate gastrointestinal system can be found such topics as "Matching pulsatile patterns of food intake to continuous-flow digestive system" (think of continuous versus intermittent tube feeding); "Microbial habitats in the gut" across species; and "Mechanisms of dietary modulation." The phylogenetic development often represents nature's experiments, and an understanding of the biologic evolution of the organ system you deal with daily can significantly deepen your understanding of its normal and abnormal functions.

This book is of particular interest to

surgical scientists who need animal models for their investigations. The lack of understanding of species differences can mislead the researcher. An interesting example of this occurred in my field of cardiac surgery with the development of a new surgical procedure known as transmymocardial laser revascularization. The purported goal of this operation was to use a laser beam to make multiple transmymocardial punctures so that the ischemic myocardium could be perfused directly by the blood within the heart. This goal presupposed the presence of a vast sponge-like sinusoidal system in the myocardium, serving as the run-off for blood coming from the cardiac cavities through the channels created by the laser. A better understanding of comparative physiology would show, however, that although such a sinusoidal system exists in fish and reptiles, it was evolutionarily replaced by the coronary vascular system in mammals. A number of revascularization procedures were developed and promoted on the basis of this misconception.

These 2 volumes are highly recommended as reference books in medical libraries and in research laboratories. For surgeons who wish to gain a deeper insight into the function of organs they are trying to take care of, these rather expensive books can also be of interest.

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KATZENSTEIN AND ASKIN'S SURGICAL PATHOLOGY OF NON-NEOPLASTIC LUNG DISEASE. Third edition. Volume 13 in the series Major Problems in Pathology. Anna Luise A.

Katzenstein. 477 pp. Illust. W.B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia. 1997. Can\$116. ISBN 0-7216-5755-9

The fact that this concise text is in its third edition may appear unusual to readers of this type of book. Its target audience was probably pathologists originally, but its concise, authoritative style will appeal to a much broader audience.

The book comprises 17 chapters, all authoritatively referenced and heavily illustrated. There are numerous tables to illustrate classifications. The first and last chapters are technical; they pertain mostly to the handling and processing of lung specimens. The remaining chapters cover the full spectrum of non-neoplastic lung disease under clinical headings such as idiopathic interstitial pneumonia, pneumoconiosis and immunologic lung disease. Each disease entity includes a concise summary of the most relevant aspects of the disease followed by a more detailed discussion of the pathologic characteristics. The chapter on immunologic lung disease includes a section on the pathologic features of lung transplantation, and the chapter on miscellaneous nonspecific inflammatory and destructive diseases of the lung includes a section on emphysema. Considering their clinical importance, I was disappointed that both these subjects are dealt with concisely but rather briefly. Nevertheless, all the important information is there, as it is for all the disease entities discussed in this book.

This is an excellent reference text, and I can understand why it is in its third edition. It will serve as a quick reference for practitioners of pulmonary medicine, be they thoracic surgeons or respirologists. It will be of particular interest to thoracic surgeons because it contains much more information about some of the clinical con-

ditions that they might encounter in their day-to-day association with respirologists than is found in standard thoracic surgical textbooks. The information is presented in a concise readable manner, which makes this book an ideal companion reference for some of the less common diseases of the lung.

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YEAR BOOK OF NEUROLOGY AND NEURO-SURGERY 1997. Edited by Walter G. Bradley and Robert H. Wilkins. 585 pp. Illust. Mosby-Year Book, Inc., St. Louis. 1997. Can\$106. ISBN 0-8151-1209-2

Overall rating: Very good

Strengths: A broad survey of developments in neurology and neurosurgery in 1995

Weaknesses: Some neglect of the scientific basis of clinical neuroscience

Audience: All practising neurologists and neurosurgeons

This year book is published in cooperation with the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. The 18 chapters devoted to neurosurgery have all been edited by Robert Wilkins, the neurosurgeon editor, whereas the 18 chapters devoted to neurology have been edited by 18 neurologists. All the articles chosen were published in 1995.

Most of the journals surveyed are purely clinical, although a paper from *Cell*, elucidating the genetic basis for I form of spinal muscular atrophy is included. This landmark identification of "neuronal apoptosis inhibitory protein" was achieved in Ottawa in the