

Book Reviews

Clinical Disorders of the Shoulder, L. Kessel and I. Bayley. Pp. 244, illustrated. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York, 1986. £50.

Interest in the shoulder has expanded in the last 10 years, especially with respect to subacromial impingement and total shoulder replacement. It is no longer the 'forgotten joint'. This book covers the anatomy, biomechanics and clinical disorders of the joints which comprise the shoulder.

A concise description of shoulder anatomy is followed by a less clearly written account of the biomechanics. It is odd that, in a clinical text, only five pages are devoted to the history and physical examination. Some of these aspects are covered in subsequent chapters, but it would have been better to bring together the many physical signs in one chapter. There are good chapters on shoulder pain, rotator cuff lesions, fractures, arthritis, instability, stiffness and paralysis.

There are anatomical errors in some of the line drawings and the quality of many of the operative photographs is poor. The authors have made an important contribution to total shoulder arthroplasty and describe it in detail, but the lack of discussion of current concepts and results of shoulder replacements is a major omission; for a balanced view the reader must look elsewhere.

This is an excellent book for the orthopaedic surgeon in training and also for those in rheumatology, physical medicine and general practice who are interested in mechanical problems in the shoulder.

P. Burge
*Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre,
Headington,
Oxford OX3 7LD.*

Clinics in Endocrinology and Metabolism. Vol. 15, no. 2, May 1986. Androgen Metabolism in Hirsute and Normal Females, edited by R. Horton and R. A. Lobo. Pp. x+pp. 213-409, illustrated. W.B. Saunders, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, 1986. £15.00.

This volume which forms one of the admirable 'Clinics in Endocrinology and Metabolism' series is an excellent compilation of 'state of the art' reviews by some of the most distinguished authors in the field. The articles are informative and often controversial. The chapters are set out in logical fashion starting with the origin of androgen secretion in normal women (Longcope) and in hirsute women (Moltz and Schwartz) and conclude with chapters on the management of hirsutism (Tremblay, Miller and Jacobs, and Brooks). The subjects covered include bioactivity of androgens in blood, peripheral metabolism and action of androgens on the skin. Each of these subjects is covered by world-recognised experts in their fields. As is usual in this series the text and figures are well presented and the papers are comprehensively

referenced. I have no hesitation in recommending this as a valuable addition to the library and a volume to have at hand for all those particularly interested in reproductive endocrinology.

S. Franks
*Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology,
St Mary's Hospital Medical School,
London W2 1PG.*

Intensive Care: A Concise Textbook, by C.J. Hinds. Pp. v+378, illustrated. Baillière Tindall, London, Philadelphia, Toronto, Mexico City, Sydney, Tokyo, Hong Kong, 1987. £14.95.

This is a new book on the relatively young specialty, intensive care, and it is a delight to read a textbook on this subject which is free from American idiom! Dr Hinds has done well to produce this excellent, condensed but comprehensive paperback on such a multidisciplinary subject. There is a considerable amount of basic physiology and pathophysiology which is well explained. There are also many well-drawn clear diagrams, but as with most textbooks the radiological reproductions are poor. The book is punctuated by many relevant references and at the end of most chapters there are suitable review articles for further study. A good balance has been achieved in the various aspects of intensive care and important elements such as the design and management of a unit have been included albeit briefly. I particularly liked the detailed chapter on trauma which is a common problem in a district general hospital and yet it is often neglected in similar books.

This is a necessary textbook for the junior doctor muddling through his first few weeks in the intensive care ward. Nurses specialising in the subject will also find it useful. As intensive care is becoming an increasingly important topic in examination halls this book is ideal for post-graduate students wishing to pass examinations in medicine, surgery or anaesthesia.

M.J.S. Robertson
*Whittington Hospital,
London N19.*

Medical Applications of Microcomputers, edited by William R. Corbett. Pp. xi+201, illustrated. John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, New York, Brisbane Toronto, Singapore, 1987. £28.50.

This book arose from a series of medical microcomputer workshop meetings and brings together contributions covering a wide variety of fields where microcomputer systems have been developed, seeking to meet clinical needs and to solve clinical problems.

The book opens with two chapters concerned with the audit of surgical practice and the preparation of patient