The text is written in English, French and German and, although not repeated for each, is relatively simplistic and even easy to follow for the non-linguist. It is divided into eight 'tomes', each representing a summary of a volume of the full Atlas. The earlier sections include a technical description of the way that the lithographs were produced and the Atlas developed. The chapters then progress topographically through osteology; muscles, tendons and fasciae; the nervous system; angiology and the heart; and the thoracic and abdominal regions.

However, I found the later equally impressively illustrated sections even more enticing with descriptions of surgical instruments and techniques, including methods of holding a scalpel, before progressing through operative procedures of the day. These ranged from control of haemorrhage, for example by external compression apparatus; insertion of drains; phlebectomy and the extraction of teeth through removal of sequestra; amputations; surgery of the ear, nose and throat including cleft lip and palate; tracheostomy; management of herniae; procedures on the urethra and prostate; hysterectomy and Caesarean section. Finally, there are sections on comparative anatomy, embryology and histology, including microscopy of the blood.

The book is aimed not only at those in the medical field but also artists, students and those interested in the study of the human body. Clearly, it would be a most desirable acquisition, especially as for the medical historian it provides a glimpse as the publishers state of 'a monumental work of the 19th century'. At £100, it represents extremely good value and is most attractive.

Bone Regeneration and Repair: Biology and Clinical Applications

JAY LIEBERMAN, GARY FRIEDLAENDER

EXTENT P/H	450 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£97.50 0896038475
PUBLISHER	Humana (New Jersey), 2005
REVIEWER	John Lowry
STAR RATING	****

The editors of this book have aimed to provide the currently available information regarding the biology of bone formation and repair to review the basic science of autologous bone graft, skeletal allograft, bone graft substitutes and growth factors and to explore the clinical applications of these technologies. They have brought together the expertise of 42 contributors, predominantly from orthopaedics with the majority from the US but also including colleagues from Germany and France. In addition, there is more diverse input from the fields of research and development, bone tissue engineering, periodontics, molecular genetics and biochemistry, and oncology. This, indeed, is an outstanding group who have

thoughtfully and skilfully set down each in their own way the current knowledge in this exciting area.

At the outset, it is recognised that bone is unique in its inherent capability to regenerate completely without scar tissue formation and that this characteristic is central to skeletal homeostasis, fracture repair and bone graft incorporation. However, it is noted in the preface that this regenerative capacity may be altered or damaged to such an extent that the disturbed pattern of repair may present difficult challenges such as fracture non-union, lost bone stock supporting total joint arthroplasties and periodontal disease, which often frustrate our efforts in the clinical field.

The 18 chapters review the biology of bone formation and repair, the basic science of autologous bone grafting, allografts, recombinant proteins and other bone-graft substitutes together with growth factors before moving on to explore the clinical applications in patients with bone-repair problems.

The book is carefully set out, taking the reader through the most recent work in this rapidly advancing field with comprehensive references concluding each chapter. There is also a skilfully prepared index. Inevitably, in such a text with self-contained chapters there is an element of duplication. Nevertheless, this is helpful for the reader who wishes to dip in and out of areas of individual interest.

It is generally well presented on quality paper although for some reason colour versions of all the monochrome illustrations in the main body of the text are brought together in a separate section two-thirds of the way through.

This cutting-edge review of the biology of bone formation and repair with a glimpse of the clinical applications will be of value to practising clinicians and basic scientists as well as senior surgical trainees, who must ensure that they have a firm grasp of the latest developments in the basic clinical sciences.

Rare Vascular Disorders: A Practical Guide for the Vascular Specialist

JONOTHAN EARNSHAW

EXTENT P/H	303 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£45.00 190337832X
PUBLISHER	tfn (Shrewsbury), 2005
REVIEWER	Madu Onwudike and Chima Mbubaegbu
STAR RATING	****

Most vascular surgeons and even general surgeons will already have texts that deal with routine vascular conditions. However, the vascular surgeon is expected to deal with the uncommon and the unexpected and this is where the book comes into its own to fill a special niche.

Some of the conditions like moyamoya disease that are discussed are esoteric and may not be encountered by the