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

average vascular specialist in a life-time of practice. The text has, however, not limited itself to these but also discusses some disorders like mesenteric ischaemia, popliteal aneurysm and false aneurysms. Although regularly encountered in contemporary practice, these disorders perhaps suffer from a paucity of reliable data required to endorse best forms of management. It highlights the diversity in conditions treated and hence the difficulty often inherent in attempts to compare treatment outcomes for some of the rare conditions. This point is of obvious relevance in any freely available publication of surgical outcomes.

The value of the book is enhanced by the recognised expertise of the contributors to some of the chapters, for example, those dealing with thoracic outlet syndrome and mid-aortic syndrome. The chapter on anatomical variations relevant to vascular surgery is also highly recommended. The text is comprehensive in its selection and coverage of rare disorders even though, by definition, that might be a contradiction.

Although there is some diversity of style reflecting the numerous contributing authors, the basic structure of presentation is consistent throughout. Where appropriate, the history of the condition, clinical presentation and diagnostic work-up have been clearly presented in a readable format. Available literature including case series has been reviewed for most of the diseases. Suggestions on management have been supported by published evidence and, in most cases, by the principal author's personal experience. Each chapter ends with a summary of relevant key points. The text is richly illustrated with excellent clinical photographs and radiological images. Between chapters, illustrative short case reports have been included; these case vignettes are very instructive for the practising clinician.

In the next edition of this book, consideration should perhaps be given to putting together all illustrations in an accompanying CD-ROM. This is, nevertheless, a very well-written, practical textbook that should be owned by every practising vascular surgeon.

First Steps in Vesico-Vaginal Fistula Repair

BRIAN HANCOCK

EXTENT P/H	63 p, paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£19.95 1853156116
PUBLISHER	RSM (London), 2005
REVIEWER	Gordon Williams
STAR RATING	****

I first came across this outstanding book during a recent working visit to the Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. The endorsement of this book by the surgeons at the Fistula Hospital and their purchase of 500 copies to give to doctors coming to the hospital to learn fistula surgery (and to take with them when they travel to other countries to teach the topic) is a far better commendation than I could give in this review.

Brian Hancock, a colorectal surgeon in Manchester, has spent a large part of his life working and teaching ways of repairing these devastating injuries in the non-industrialised world. This book is a true reflection of what he has achieved. The photographs and line drawings are clear and fully complement the text. However, it is not just closing the hole; women with fistulae invariably have numerous other problems (social, psychological and physical), all of which need attention. Stress urinary incontinence is an almost invariable sequence in those with severe fistulae associated with scarring. The recognition in this book of the recently described operation by Andrew Browning, using the divided ischiocavernosus muscle or a sling of fibrous tissue from the lateral pelvic wall, is a major advance and needs to be utilised and validated more widely.

Though urine bags are expensive in non-industrialised countries, efforts need to be made to have them more widely introduced. One cannot continue to condone an open system of urine drainage and increased requirement for powerful antibiotics. What about female catheters and leg bags? In the next edition, hopefully, we will hear about the use of urethral plugs and whether or not to blow up the balloon of the catheter post-repair.

I hope that reading this book will stimulate surgeons young and old to use their surgical skills and spend time in the non-industrialised world treating these young women. It is most unlikely in the near future that these injuries will be prevented.