The book comprises 16 chapters, each covering a main surgical specialty, knowledge of which is expected for most UK examinations, and the questions have been devised by specialists in the field (22 in all). The number of questions in each section varies a little depending on the subject. Most areas are covered and there are useful sections on anaesthetics and intensive care although pain relief does not seem to be covered, which might have been a useful addition.

This book is no mean achievement because writing good EMQs that avoid making the answer too obvious or too obscure is a difficult task and, on the whole, the various authors have achieved this well. On some occasions, the phrasing of the question and the juxtaposition of the options and stems is not always clear, nor does it always adopt the format of presentation of EMQs set for the MRCS examination. It would, therefore, be wrong to see this book as simply a 'crammer' for the MRCS and the authors do not make that claim in the preface. The book is targeted at surgical examinations in general, including both the MRCS and FRCS. I think this book would be a useful addition to the surgical trainee's library. It can easily be dipped into, providing a good means of self-assessment to highlight areas that are poorly understood as well as for practising the technique of EMQs.

Recent Advances in Surgery 28

IRVING TAYLOR, COLIN JOHNSON

EXTENT P/H	229 p, paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£35.00 1853156108
PUBLISHER	RSM (London), 2005
REVIEWERS	Mohammed Salman and David Deardon
STAR RATING	****

Each year, Irving Taylor and Colin Johnson's immensely successful *Recent Advances in Surgery* series produces a volume that attempts to cover areas of interest and trends in current surgical practice as well as revise in depth advancing areas in the surgical specialties. The latest edition is no exception to this traditional formula. The editors have combined contributions from 33 authors including established surgical consultants, academics, surgeons in training and a podiatrist to produce an essential source of reading for trainees preparing for the intercollegiate examinations as well as consultant surgeons in clinical practice wishing to keep abreast of topics not immediately related to their daily workload.

Volume 28 is divided into six sections covering surgery in general, surgical practice, gastrointestinal surgery, vascular and transplantation surgery and a review section. Within this structure, there are 15 well-written chapters and a series of colour plates that are grouped together at the beginning of the book.

The section on surgery in general comprises three chapters of diverse content covering training technology, bacterial translocation and sepsis, and pre-operative patient optimisation, all areas of immense practical importance to the modern practising surgeon. With the current emphasis on evidence-based practice, the importance of technology cannot be overlooked and this chapter does well to highlight the role of technology in modern-day surgical education, emphasising the value of technological skills for the surgeon and in the care of surgical patients. Bacterial translocation in surgical patients and the hypothesis of the 'gut origin of sepsis' is timely and well linked to the last chapter in this section which covers the difficult issue of pre-operative optimisation. The chapter emphasises the maintenance of all aspects of gut function in critically ill patients and particularly in high-risk (ASA III and IV) surgical patients. It provides a planned and concise approach, which is easy to follow and practical.

Four diverse subjects are covered within the surgical practice section that are increasingly of interest to general surgeons and examiners alike. Chapters on the diagnosis and treatment of abdominal tuberculosis, the current trends in management of malignant melanoma, the controversies in the management of inguinal hernia (including different surgical treatment modalities, outcomes, serious complications, recovery time and cost) as well as the classification and management of intestinal fistulae are all hot topics for discussion.

Section 3 covers gastrointestinal surgery and contains very useful, up-to-date overviews of the standards in treatment of pancreatic disease and adjuvant therapy in colorectal cancer. The more trendy topics of laparoscopic banding for obesity and diagnostic laparoscopy for gastrointestinal malignancy are also well reviewed and provide a good working framework from which to develop study and further reading.

It is also good to see the inclusion of a section on vascular/transplantation surgery. The chapters in this section provide a useful update in areas of surgery which are not always included in general surgical books of this type. They provide the reader with a broader insight into the practice in these two complex, high-risk fields.

Thankfully, the final section, which reviews a number of randomised controlled trials of relevance to today's practising surgeon and trainee, has been maintained in this edition. With today's need for on-going, evidence-based practice, this edition provides useful information on a wide range of topics. These include inguinal hernia repair, colorectal surgery, breast surgery, pancreatic and hepatobiliary surgery, upper gastrointestinal surgery and melanoma. These topics follow on well from the areas reviewed in the previous edition.

The compact, A5 format of this volume follows the established successful formula of its predecessors. Revision of each chapter is easy as important key points are highlight-

ed in coloured revision boxes while the conclusion wraps up the topic, providing food for thought. The whole topic is revised at the end of each chapter as a series of bulleted key points. The text is well supported by a comprehensive bibliography and the reader is pointed in the direction of further reading and study. Our only slight criticism is the inclusion of all the colour plates in a dedicated section at the beginning of the book. Although this is undoubtedly done for economic reasons, it does interrupt the flow of reading and can be an irritation for the reader.

Since its introduction, this series has endeavoured to provide the reader with up-to-date information. It is, therefore, a must and an indispensable volume for all surgeons, especially senior trainees preparing for surgical membership and intercollegiate examinations. It also provides thought-provoking chapters for the busy surgeon, who, like the trainee, will benefit from reading it. The style allows the reader to dip in and out of the content without the risk of indigestion from the consumption of too large or complicated chunks of information. Good bedtime reading!

General Anatomy and Musculoskeletal System

MICHAEL SCHUENKE, ERIK SCHULTE, UDO SCHUMACHER

EXTENT P/H	550 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	79.95 euros 3131405112
PUBLISHER	Thieme (Stuttgart), 2005
REVIEWER	Andrew Raftery
STAR RATING	****

This is an English edition of an Atlas of Anatomy, which was originally published in German and has been translated to make it available to English-speaking students. The copy I was sent to review, however, has a further feature, namely that it is a special Latin nomenclature edition intended to cater especially for those English-speaking users who study and use the Latin nomenclature.

The book combines illustrations with explanatory texts and summary tables that present anatomical concepts in a step-by-step sequence, allowing for the integration of both system-by-system and topographical views. The preface indicates the text and tables introduce clinical applications throughout and this is a strong point of the Atlas.

The Atlas covers human phylogeny and ontogeny and then gives an overview of the human body as well as an excellent chapter on anatomical terms. Bones, joints, muscles, blood vessels, lymphatics and general neuro-anatomy are dealt with prior to a detailed anatomy of the trunk and limbs.

It is beautifully produced and the illustrations are by far the best I have encountered in any Atlas of anatomy of this size.

The diagrams are clear, well labelled and appropriately augmented by text.

The authors state in the preface that it was their intention to create an Atlas that would guide students in their initial study of anatomy, stimulate their enthusiasm for this intriguing and vitally important subject (if the Germans realise that it is a vitally important subject why don't the British!) and provide a reliable reference for experienced students and professionals alike. I think the authors have certainly achieved this but, regrettably, I had difficulty in reviewing this particular edition largely because of the Latin nomenclature. I cannot recommend this version to students studying in the UK, chiefly because of the combination of the English text and the Latin nomenclature, which is not appropriate to those studying in the UK. However, the good news is that there is an all-English version with appropriate nomenclature and I would thoroughly recommend that particular edition to you without reserve, both for undergraduates and postgraduates alike.

Apley's Concise System of Orthopaedics and Fractures (3rd edn)

LOUIS SOLOMAN, DAVID WARWICK, SELVADURAI NAYAGAM

EXTENT P/H	416 p, paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£24.99 0340809841
PUBLISHER	Hodder Arnold (London), 2004
REVIEWER	Marc Patterson
STAR RATING	****

Apley is orthopaedics – or should it be orthopaedics is Apley? Whichever way round you read it, the orthopaedic world would not be complete without an Apley orthopaedic volume on the market.

Apley's original *System of Orthopaedics and Fractures* (now in its 8th edition) was originally borne out of the famous FRCS course at Pyrford in 1954 and Louis Solomon collaborated with Alan Apley in the later editions. The *Concise System of Orthopaedics and Fractures* was conceived 10 years ago and this book is the third edition to appear. Unfortunately, Alan Apley is no longer with us but Louis Solomon and his co-authors have carried on the Apley style to retain all that is good about this book.

The original concise edition was aimed at advanced medical undergraduates, newly qualified doctors and surgeons in training. The authors have also found interest in the book from trainees in other surgical specialties, from experienced general practitioners and from physiotherapists and occupational therapists as well as practising orthopaedic consultants and teachers wanting a short, up-to-date review of an orthopaedic subject with which they are already familiar. I fall into this final category and this volume fits the bill exactly.