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.