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.

The book covers common orthopaedic conditions encountered in orthopaedic practice, not only in this country but in less developed areas of the world and this broadens its appeal. The layout of previous editions is maintained, with three main sections on general orthopaedics, regional orthopaedics, and fractures and joint injuries. The text has been updated to include modern operative techniques but has kept a general overview of disease, thus maintaining its relevance for a wider paramedical audience. With books on specialist subjects becoming ever more onerous, it is a pleasure to have a book that is easy to read, concise and clear, thereby aiding knowledge retention.

Apley said that a good picture with a story is worth a thousand words and the illustrations here have been modernised with liberal use of colour where appropriate. Those of us who are established in orthopaedics and are familiar with the book will eagerly open a new edition to see what extra information is contained within and which old friends have been retained to jog the memory or stimulate an anecdote.

However, *Apley's Concise System of Orthopaedics and Fractures* is primarily for the young, enquiring mind and would be particularly useful in the revision situation. If you are preparing for the MRCS examination, I can think of no good reason why this book should not be on your shelf. In fact, if more candidates were familiar with Apley's famous advice ('Look, feel, move, X-ray'), the life of the examiner would be a great deal easier!

Ultrasonic Energy for Cutting, Coagulation and Dissection

WOLFGANG FEIL

EXTENT P/H	228 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£99.00 3131275219
PUBLISHER	Thieme (Stuttgart), 2004
REVIEWER	John Lowry
STAR RATING	****

Under Professor Wolfgang Feil of the Evangelical Hospital in Vienna, the editors from Belgium, Germany, Finland and Sweden have drawn together 40 contributors largely from the surgical specialties and gynaecology in Europe and the US.

The preface reminds the reader of the basic fact that surgical technique fundamentally comprises cutting and haemostasis. Ancient civilisations used sharp instruments made of stone and later metal, while the scalpel and scissors of the modern operating theatre are merely the result of refinements of the basic principles. Again, going back to ancient times, haemostasis was often accomplished with compresses of plant material while surgical wounds, for

example amputations after battle injuries, were controlled by tourniquets and subsequently cauterised by red-hot iron.

While the basic principles of haemostasis by ligation and cauterisation are still valid today, the methods have progressively advanced, for example by the use of clips and rows of staples for ligation and high-frequency electrical power, focused at the tip of an active electrode for the latter. However, the risk of damage to tissues by heat and electrical current have been particularly evident in laparoscopic surgery and ultrasound as an alternative source of energy for surgical cutting and haemostasis has been progressively introduced.

The 35 chapters focus on the UltraCision system, which uses ultrasonic energy for haemostatic cutting and coagulation of soft tissues. After an introduction to the system, comprising generator, handpiece with ultrasonic transducer, blades and shears, the principles of ultrasonic energy for coagulation are described. These are then compared and contrasted with more conventional high-frequency coagulation and cutting in monopolar and bipolar form, emphasising the 'tissue-friendly' characteristics of ultrasonic energy as demonstrated by infrared thermography.

The next chapter on education, training and the personal experience over nine years by the lead editor suggests that laparotomy is the 'perfect procedure' to make first contact with ultrasonic cutting and coagulation. The reader is then guided in greater detail through a wide range of surgical procedures, each of which is considered in a uniform format with indication and pre-operative management, the operation itself, hints and pitfalls, personal experience and discussion. The procedures described include oesophageal resection, reflux surgery, oesophageal myotomy, radical gastrectomy, laparoscopically assisted and open colorectal surgery, laparoscopic surgery for cancer, laparoscopic cholecystectomy, hepatic resection, laparoscopic splenectomy, pancreatic resection, laparoscopic adrenalectomy and minimally invasive thyroid surgery. In addition, gynaecological procedures such as hysterectomy, laparoscopic myomectomy and resection of deep infiltrating endometriosis are covered before the field is widened yet further into breast surgery, tonsillectomy, orthopaedic and thoracic surgery, and urology, including a description of radical laparoscopic prostatectomy.

Typically for a book from the Thieme stable, it is concise, well produced and beautifully illustrated with line diagrams and colour photographs. It certainly fulfils the editors' stated aim of being a step-by-step guide for practising surgeons and those in training. It is interesting to note their views on the back cover that ultrasonic energy for cutting and coagulation is 'one of the most versatile tools that surgeons can have in their arsenal' and that 'the future of surgery lies in the use and mastery of techniques such as this'. Time and wider experience will, of course, tell but there is no doubt that their enthusiasm is potentially infectious.