Compared with the competition designed for residents or similar grades, I thought that although this book was pocket-sized and to the point, it was neither detailed enough to cover the topic in depth, nor readable enough for revision purposes. It scored well in terms of portability and relevance of topics but was not as easy to read, nor did it have enough good quality illustrations for my liking. Faced with fierce competition from other authors on this subject matter, I felt that a resident or equivalent could do better in terms of a choice of text to acquire.

The Medical Job Interview: Secrets for Success

COLIN MUMFORD

EXTENT P/H	88p, paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£9.95 1405121858
PUBLISHER	Blackwell (Oxford), 2005
REVIEWER	GCS Cousin and Mohammed Sharwesh
STAR RATING	****

This book aims to give a comprehensive and easy-to-read review of the medical job interview. It is intended as a basis for the final-year medical student and junior doctors applying for hospital posts in the UK system. The first section is aimed entirely at explaining to candidates how to get short-listed, including spotting the right job advert, the importance of visiting the relevant hospital before the short-list is announced and the selection criteria.

Chapter three fully explains how short-listed candidates should prepare and present their *curricula vitae*. Chapters four and five by and large address the interview procedure, taking into account specific interview strategies with helpful tips and appropriate interview behaviour for the short-listed candidate to adopt. The following chapter covers, in a logical sequence, the most common interview questions. This is illustrated with a few real-life examples of questions and their answers, which provide a useful resource.

The final section looks at what happens behind the scenes, including interview panel selection criteria. It also provides some advice on contract terms and salary negotiation.

This book is well laid out in a very readable style and contains a wealth of information for anyone who is applying for a hospital position in the UK system. The editor has succeeded in bringing the relevant information together and this is well presented for a text of this size. It will serve as a very useful source of information for all doctors looking for their early hospital jobs and is eminently readable. Most of the general content will be applicable even with the new arrangements for appointment to training posts.

Advanced Endourology: The Complete Clinical Guide

STEPHEN NAKADA, MARGARET PEARLE

EXTENT P/H	376 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£79.50 1588294463
PUBLISHER	Humana (New Jersey), 2005
REVIEWER	Chris Chilton
STAR RATING	****

This book is a small, but weighty, tome; in fact, it weighs two-and-a-half pounds. It is, as the editors describe, a resource guide for all aspects of endourology and especially advanced endourology. It is a multi-authored book written by national and world experts in endourology from the US and Canada. This book, therefore, provides very much an American view of endourology. Each chapter, however, is very well referenced and covers world-wide opinion, which gives an international flavour to the text.

The book itself is divided into six parts: diagnosis and instrumentation, calculus therapy, incisional therapy, ablative therapy, complications of endourology and paediatric minimally invasive surgery. Each chapter is written to the same pattern, starting with the contents, followed by a summary and introduction to the chapter; the text follows with a final conclusion and a comprehensive list of references. Each topic is covered by a structured programme of indications, instrumentation, technique, results, complications, tips and tricks and a final conclusion. This makes the chapters very readable, while the structure makes dipping into it and picking out various techniques and outcomes very easy, which I found particularly useful.

The style of the text is very formal and slightly old-fashioned. Occasionally, the text is a little too long and could be better paragraphed to make it more readable. The illustrations are also slightly old-fashioned, with some of the X-rays and endoscopic views not of the best quality. There are not enough line diagrams or drawings to illustrate the text and because of this, like many textbooks of this sort they tend to date relatively easily.

The book, however, has included with it a DVD that contains 16 separate videos each well produced, demonstrating common, essential and advanced techniques all of which complement the text very well. Learning surgery from a written description is almost impossible without the global picture that live surgery or videos bring. This greatly enhances the whole experience of the book and makes it well worth reading.

The authors say that every urologist should have this book. I am not sure that I would go that far but agree that all departments should have this book. It is helpful and practical both for the everyday urologist and the endourological

surgeon. It is also essential reading for residents who are working for their board or final fellowship exams.

Anatomy of General Surgical Operations

GLYN JAMIESON

EXTENT P/H	240p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£44.99 0443100071
PUBLISHER	Churchill Livingstone (London), 2006
REVIEWER	Andrew Raftery
STAR RATING	****

Safe surgery is founded upon accurate knowledge of the appropriate anatomy. The purpose of this book is to bring the latter into the operating theatre to describe operations principally in terms of the anatomy concerned. The second edition of this book describes the anatomy of general surgical operations in 44 chapters written by a variety of specialists in their fields, with all the chapters being co-authored by the main author. Although entitled 'General Surgical Operations', many of these operations would currently be undertaken in the UK by specialist surgeons, particularly those on the head and neck, neurosurgery and vascular surgery. Indeed, it is difficult to know what the definition of general surgery is at the present time, especially in the UK.

The preface is very short and does not clearly indicate what the author considers to be the appropriate readership for the book. Certainly, many of the chapters are too advanced for those taking the MRCS but are eminently suitable for those taking the intercollegiate speciality FRCS in general surgery and equivalent examinations, in particular the Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

The second edition has been totally redesigned with new art work and there is a greater coverage of the anatomical variation that the surgeon will encounter. There is also a greater accent on endoscopic procedures. The book is divided into seven parts – abdominal operations, general surgical operations in the thorax, head and neck surgery, surgical oncological procedures, arterial and venous surgery, general surgical neurological operations and surgery of the skin.

Chapter 9, which describes the various forms of vagotomy, is a little dated but is of historical interest with the authors indicating that this operation is rarely undertaken nowadays. I particularly enjoyed reading chapter 15, which gives an exceptionally clear and practical approach to the anatomy of the anal canal.

There were one or two inaccuracies in the book. For example, Figure 1.4 is not very clear and is poorly labelled (surely the first part of the figure should be labelled 'rectus

sheath – above the costal margin'). Also the third part of the figure should refer to the internal rather than external oblique aponeurosis while the word aponeurosis is also misspelt. In addition, some of the figures are unclear especially Figure 21.3, which is poorly drawn and at one point incorrectly labelled. Figure 23.1 is also unclear and poorly labelled. There is also some lack of consistency; in Chapter 21, Figure 21.4 contains the Latin nomenclature of muscles.

In Chapter 36, the abdominal aorta is described as passing through the aortic hiatus in the diaphragm. Strictly speaking, there is no aortic hiatus in the diaphragm as the aorta passes behind the crura of the diaphragm in an osseo-aponeurotic opening between the vertebral column and the diaphragm and, therefore, clearly behind the latter. In Chapter 37, the external iliac artery is described as crossing behind the mid-point of the inguinal ligament rather than the mid-inguinal point.

Apart from these minor criticisms this is an excellent book describing the anatomical basis for general surgical operations. It is clearly written and the majority of the diagrams are excellent. Being written by surgeons it accentuates the important aspects of applied anatomy, giving sound practical advice. The problem is to whom would I recommend this book in the UK? Certainly, I would recommend it to those studying for the intercollegiate speciality examination in general surgery. Many of the chapters are probably too advanced for those studying for the MRCS. More experienced surgeons will also find it useful as a source of reference that clearly demonstrates the practical application of anatomy to the art of surgery.

Cracking the MRCS Viva: A Revision Guide

IAIN AU-YONG, SIMON HOWARTH, TJUN TANG, ROBERT SAYERS

EXTENT P/H	550 p, paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£24.99 9780340906460
PUBLISHER	Hodder Arnold (London), 2007
REVIEWER	Clare Heywood
STAR RATING	****

This new book sets itself the enormous task of helping surgical trainees through their MRCS viva. Three of its authors have recently been through the viva in London, Edinburgh and Glasgow, and, together with a senior examiner for the intercollegiate examination, have come up with a book that guides the candidate through what they could be faced with in the examination. This includes working through numerous possible viva topics, with commonly asked questions and their answers.

The introductory section works through examination technique, giving memorable mnemonics and a surgical