I must admit I had one or two niggles reading the book. The classification of chronic suppurative otitis media into safe or unsafe and tubotympanic or attico-antral is arguably less preferable to the more recent and simpler one of cholesteatoma or not and active or not. Similarly, I would not personally put 'recurrent vestibulopathy' in the same diagnostic box as 'vascular loop syndrome'. I also wonder whether some specialists would take issue with post-nasal drip as a cause of chronic cough. That said, these are issues that occupy hours of specialist debate and often whole ENT conferences, so the authors can probably be forgiven for including their own views.

Finally, I wonder whether the inclusion of more definitions and classifications may make this a useful book for those revising for postgraduate ENT examinations. This would obviously have to be carefully balanced against not making it too dry or complicated for the rest of the readership. Overall, I felt that this was an excellent book and would wholeheartedly recommend it to its target audience of medical students and juniors. One or two minor changes and inclusions could broaden its appeal still further.

Ear, Nose and Throat and Head and Neck Surgery (3rd edn)

RS DHILLON, CA EAST

EXTENT P/H	123 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£25.99 0443073112
PUBLISHER	Churchill Livingstone (London), 2006
REVIEWER	Nicholas Marks
STAR RATING	****

This is the third edition of this book and, as with each edition, the tendency is to increase the breadth and scope of information covered. ENT and head and neck surgery has become increasingly subspecialised. The main authors have, therefore, sought specialist input but at the same time have tried to retain the original target audience and homogeneity of style. It is aimed quite clearly at those new to the specialty. It is a primer for those starting in this field: medical students, GPs developing a special interest, nurses and paramedics, and junior doctors in the specialty who need a working guide.

The format is described as an 'illustrated colour text' and each topic is dealt with on a double-page spread. Compressing all the information on any particular subject into a set space has made the authors select carefully what they include as essential information. The presentation includes liberal use of colour in photographs, drawings, diagrams, and tables, all within a soft-covered A4 book. At the end of each section there is a summary box. It is an attractive presentation and easy to find the information one requires

speedily. The text is brief and to the point. It is highly didactic and, as such, generates some controversial statements, although none of these matter too much considering at whom the book is aimed. Indeed, they may be useful talking points if the book is used as a teaching resource.

The photographs are excellent in demonstrating disease processes well and will aid diagnosis. Those of the tympanic membrane and oral cavity were particularly good. There might be scope to increase their number and range in future editions. Some of the diagrams, in contrast, seemed a little laboured and added nothing to what had already been said in the text. For example, a photograph of an adenoidal child would have been far more useful than the size:age distribution graph, the details of which had already been described in the text. Also, the diagram to explain the tuning fork tests just didn't.

The authors have elected to exclude virtually all operative detail. This is entirely correct for their target readership, most of whom are unlikely to be operating and it helps to keep the book concise. Those who buy this book are likely to use it to dip into to support their learning programme, to help before seeing a patient with a known problem or for pre-examination revision. It competes with web-based materials and, as such, its great strength is portability and the facility to add one's own notes. One of the few criticisms, therefore, is its large format. It just is not pocket-sized. Overall, however, one would have to conclude that it achieves what it sets out to do and will continue to be a valuable resource for those looking for a concise and readily accessible grounding in the fundamentals of the specialty.

Arthroscopic and Endoscopic Spinal Surgery: Text and Atlas (2nd edn)

PARVIZ KAMBIN

EXTENT P/H	376 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£103.00 1588295222
PUBLISHER	Humana (New Jersey), 2005
REVIEWER	Jonathan Lucas
STAR RATING	**

This is a multi-author text with 28 authors covering the subject of arthroscopic and endoscopic surgery principally of the lumbar spine. There are additional chapters covering vertebroplasty and kyphoplasty, techniques in pain management, interspinous implant for spinal stenosis, chemonucleolysis, nucleus replacement and frameless stereotactic imaging techniques. The editor is one of the pioneers and innovators of percutaneous and arthroscopic spinal surgery so the content is presented from the perspective of the enthusiast for these techniques. The book is principally a text on how to perform the procedures and is richly illustrated. However, there