Lesson 7: 'Never allow a patient near an interventional radiologist on a Friday afternoon, at night or during a weekend'; Lesson 14: 'Never begin a comment at the Matrix Conference with 'In my experience'<...>'; Lesson 17: 'The least essential operating room supplies are always overstocked'; Lesson 23: 'If the scrub nurse mumbles during the sponge [sic] count, get a film'; Lesson 37: 'If the nurses like you, you are not doing your job'; and Lesson 65: 'Never refer to a patient as an organ or an operation'. Perhaps one of the most appropriate lessons, however, is lesson 98: 'Beware the a.m. admit'.

The author describes the admission of a patient on the day of surgery as financial brilliance but educational stupidity. He argues strongly for 'day before surgery' admission. This allows the patient to become familiar with the surroundings and staff and allows the surgical team to review the history, examine the patient and correlate this interview and examination with the operative findings of the following morning. The author describes it as allowing the perfect synthesis of observation, examination and correlation.

This is a beautifully written labour of love by an experienced surgeon and educator, full of good practical advice based on years of experience in the emergency room, the ward and the operating theatre. Although written very much for the American market, almost all of it applies anywhere in the world. I think this book should be compulsory reading for every surgical trainee and indeed for anyone who attends a mortality and morbidity meeting. It is a veritable gem – a pearl indeed.

Basic Orthopaedic Sciences: The Stanmore Guide

MANOJ RAMACHANDRAN

EXTENT P/H	304 p, paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£34.99, 9780340885024
PUBLISHER	Hodder Arnold (London), 2007
REVIEWER	Robin Paton
STAR RATING	*****

In the foreword, the author explains that this book has been written to help in examination situations and day-to-day clinical practice. Although this was originally conceived for postgraduate orthopaedic examinations, he feels that it would be useful for a wider audience. I agree that it reaches these aspirations with ease.

Basic Orthopaedic Sciences has been based on the Stanmore basic science course. Candidates on the course have given feedback and I am sure that this has improved the contents of the textbook. The intention was not to aim too high or too low and I agree that the editor has found a

happy medium. The book does cover most basic sciences and certainly most of the topics that would be asked in the basic sciences section of the FRCS trauma and orthopaedics examination.

The editor has paired both a junior and senior author in each of the chapters and I think this is a good way of using experience and enthusiasm to keep the content current. The subjects covered are comprehensive. The statistics section is particularly well described, explaining the basic principles of the important methods. Statistics is often a stumbling block in the examination situation and this chapter should prove useful to the examinee. The illustrations are excellent and the writing style is easy to read. There are also viva questions at the end of the chapters, which mimic questions asked under examination situations and should also check the reader's understanding of the appropriate chapter. In addition, there are up-to-date references at the end of each chapter.

I feel that this book should be useful for all SpR trainees both to read and digest as they progress through the registrar training programme, not just for the exit examination. It is also a useful textbook for SpR trainers as it is concise and wide-ranging with chapters that are based on the current literature. This is an excellent addition to the literature and has been based on a successful basic sciences course. The authors, the editor and the associate editors have done a fine job in producing this exceptional textbook.

Elastic Stable Intramedullary Nailing (ESIN) in Children

H-G DIETZ, PP SCHMITTENBECHER, T SLOGO, KE WILKINS

EXTENT P/H	250 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£34.99, 103131433310
PUBLISHER	Thieme (Stuttgart), 2006
REVIEWER	Robin Paton
STAR RATING	****

This book has been written by a distinguished group of international authors and editors. It is a manual on the operative technique for elastic stable intramedullary nailing on long bone fractures in children. This is a modern textbook, being well set out and illustrated using up-to-date technology with an accompanying DVD showing workshops and clinical details. There is an introduction on the biomechanics of the technique, which explains factors leading to failure. Each chapter has an excellent section at the end on 'Pearls and Pitfalls' and these are helpfully illustrated with radiographic pictures.

It is a very practical text, subdividing long bones into anatomical areas with the pre-operative limb position,