Other chapters in this section discuss the emerging field of tissue engineering of blood vessels and newer procedures for day-case surgery. Further highlights include a useful review of the management of acute gallbladder disease and a review of the evidence for the surgical management of haemorrhoids. There is also a useful update on the multidisciplinary approach to the modern management of bleeding oesophageal varices, with contributions from a physician, surgeon and radiologist practising at the University of Cape Town.

The increasingly difficult task of staying up-to-date with new developments in the practice of general surgery is made easier to some degree by this series. We would recommend it to all basic and higher trainees within the increasingly superspecialised field of general surgery as well as consultants with an interest in the relevant sections of the book. In particular, this book is ideal for candidates preparing for final examinations prior to completion of training in general surgery. We hope the series continues in the future.

Tympanoplasty, Mastoidectomy, and Stapes Surgery, 2nd edn

UGO FISCH, JOHN S MAY, THOMAS LINDER

EXTENT P/H	396 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	€109.95 9783131377029
PUBLISHER	Thieme (Stuttgart), 2007
REVIEWER	Michael Timms
STAR RATING	*****

This book represents all that most of us will ever need to know about middle-ear surgery. It is written by a master in his field, a prolific author, teacher and, above all, a surgeon. It is suitable reading for trainees and established surgeons alike, covering every aspect of middle ear and mastoid surgery likely to be encountered.

The style is didactic, based on the author's own massive experience. He has clearly dealt with all the scenarios in this book many times and seems to have a surgical solution to every problem that we are likely to encounter; for example, he shows how to modify standard stapes prostheses to cope with anomalous anatomy in stapedectomy cases.

Radiology is used extensively to aid diagnosis and treatment planning in a way that is difficult to reproduce in some countries, with limited time and resources, but demonstrates how a high standard of otology can be practised in the right circumstances. The scans presented are relevant and illustrate the pathology well. Line diagrams used throughout the book are clear and easy to follow, if not always easy to emulate in practice. One is taken step by step

through the various surgical processes in such a logical way that one is tempted to wonder why one never thought of some of the solutions before.

The section on middle-ear reconstruction describes the use of autologous tissues as well as prosthetic devices and results are given for each. Some outcome figures are from follow-up at 10 years, which makes them reliable. Cochlear implant surgery and bone-anchored hearing aids are only touched upon but, as these procedures are mainly carried out in specialised centres, I do not regard this as a weakness. The main areas covered by this book are encountered by every practising otologist and this is one of the book's strengths.

The appendix covering theatre equipment is helpful insofar as one can take it to a manager when procuring a new middle-ear set and quote the master's requirements. It does, however, rely heavily on one manufacturer. The section on stapedectomy is very thorough and quotes Fisch's own results for primary, secondary and anomalous surgery. There is no real information on the use of the laser in middle-ear surgery and stapedectomy, so knowledge of this modality will have to be sought elsewhere.

This second edition can be regarded as the standard reference and surgical guide for this subject. It is small enough to remain in one's briefcase, ready for those occasions when we see a horrible middle ear and wonder if there is a reliable way of preserving or restoring some function. Few surgeons will ever amass Fisch's experience but, with this book, they will be prepared to tackle almost all eventualities. All one has to do then is to try and reproduce some of his surgical skill.

Musculoskeletal Imaging: A Teaching File, 2nd edn

FELIX S CHEW, CATHERINE C ROBERTS

EXTENT P/H	576 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	US\$129.00 0781757541
PUBLISHER	Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins (Philadelphia), 2006
REVIEWER	K Davda
STAR RATING	*****

Part of the *Teaching File* educational series, this comprehensive book is written by two American professors of radiology. It is aimed primarily as a companion for radiology trainees as a reference and revision tool for American Board examinations. However, its wide coverage of musculoskeletal pathology will also appeal to trainees in orthopaedics.

The book comprises eight chapters, each based on a single anatomical region of the skeleton from 'hand & wrist'

down to 'foot & ankle'. Each chapter presents up to 60 cases, covering a spectrum of pathology from trauma, metabolic and endocrine conditions to regional manifestations of systemic disease. Each case is presented with a brief history and the associated imaging from plain radiographs to CT and MRI. A description of key radiological features follows with differential to final diagnosis, concluded by a review of the aetiology and pathophysiology of the case.

The format of each case mimics the style of a typical clinical radiology meeting that, as an orthopaedic trainee, one often approaches with a sense of dread. Each case presentation helps the reader build a method of analysing a radiological image to arrive at a rational, differential diagnosis. The images are clearly laid out and emphasise the pathology at hand. The text is written in a simple and effective style that concisely delivers clinically relevant information without burdening the reader in heavy 'exam' facts. Each case takes between one and two pages and can be read in a few minutes. In particular, the authors do a good job in explaining the reasons behind a specific radiological feature, be it the mechanism of injury in trauma or the pathophysiology in neoplastic disease. Within a short space of time, the reader can begin to describe and tackle the daunting task of deciphering images of conditions that at first seem complex and confusing, such as bone tumours, with accurate proficiency.

A further strength of the book lies in the manner in which it can be used. An exhaustive range of orthopaedic pathology is covered and, as a reference text, it is well organised, such that cases are easily located by either anatomical region or pathological condition. Alternatively, the style of the book lends itself favourably as a self-test revision aid. Although sizeable, it is not cumbersome in subject matter and I found this helpful as a constructive use of time during idle moments on-call or in between operating cases.

It is difficult to find fault with this book. It fulfils its remit of introducing musculoskeletal imaging to the inexperienced reader in a manner that is enjoyable without being laborious. The book is aimed primarily at radiologists and does not intend to include the specific management of the cases it describes. It is also assumed that the reader has prior knowledge of terms used to describe the radiological features of bone lesions such as 'expansile' or 'permeative'. I would have liked to have seen a short introduction that formally teaches the reader a recipe for dissecting musculoskeletal images, for example, in the form of a checklist or algorithm.

In summary this is an excellent book, which does not have many rivals in the breadth of topics covered and the effective manner in which it delivers the facts at hand. I would recommend it to any orthopaedic trainee for whom it would be extremely useful over many years.