BOOK REVIEWS

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Bailey & Love's Short Practice of Surgery, 25th edn

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EXTENT P/H	1536 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£110.00, 9780340939321
PUBLISHER	Hodder Arnold (London), 2008
REVIEWER	Irving Taylor
STAR RATING	*****

Whether this classic text book can still be called 'A Short Practice of Surgery' is debatable. It now runs to 1500 pages and 5 kg: a weighty tome indeed! Interestingly, my 20th edition, the yellow coloured book, weighs 2.5 kg. Nevertheless, this is the 25th anniversary edition so one should expect something extra special. The editors are to be congratulated on maintaining the consistently high standard, which had been developed during Chris Russell's 4-year reign as senior editor.

Much of the traditional style is preserved and this is highly desirable. The historical attributes and vignettes, the hallmark of Bailey and Love since its inception, happily remain. Each of the 77 chapters is preceded by a series of learning objectives, designed to ensure that the reader is familiar with what should be understood having read the chapter.

The book is beautifully illustrated with clear and descriptive colour photographs of a very high quality. Even the X-rays and scans are easy to read and interpret, and the publishers are to be congratulated for this. The chapters that particularly interested me (gastrointestinal and oncology) were easily readable and informative. There is a remarkably consistent style, which is clearly, once again, a tribute to the editors, especially since there are 102 contributors.

Bailey and Love is still a major reference book from which one can both refresh and keep up to date with rapidly developing surgical concepts. At the same time, it provides a comprehensive explanation and revision of those important basic principles that remain constant.

This book remains a useful reference for final-year surgical students and for first and second-year surgical trainees who are looking for a broad view of surgery prior to sitting membership examinations. There is no doubt that Bailey and Love provides exceptional background information for all of surgery in general.

For these reasons, the book remains at the very forefront of surgical texts and I have no doubt that the 25th edition of Bailey and Love will prove as popular as its predecessors.

Human Sectional Anatomy: Atlas of body sections, CT and MRI images, 3rd edn

HAROLD ELLIS, BARI M LOGAN, ADRIAN K DIXON

EXTENT P/H	272 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£89.00, 9780340912225
PUBLISHER	Hodder Arnold (London), 2007
REVIEWER	Andrew Raftery
STAR RATING	*****

This book, first published in 1991 and now in its third edition, consists of 119 colour plates of axial, coronal and sagittal sections of the human body, which are matched with corresponding computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). It is written by three authors who are all experts in their relevant fields. The preface gives an account of the history of sectional anatomy and the introduction stresses the importance of cross-sectional anatomy in relation to the understanding of modern imaging techniques, especially CT and MRI. A full and clear description of the techniques involved in the preparation of the cadaveric material is given followed by an explanation of the scientific basis of CT and MRI.

The presentation is consistent throughout, namely double-page spreads of fully labelled cadaver sections on the left-hand page matched on the right-hand page with details on sectional level, orientation, labelled line drawings, MRI or CT scans and notes explaining important points. Larger structures in the anatomical sections are numbered directly, while smaller structures are indicated by leader lines. The key to the numbering is placed directly below the photographs, thus facilitating interpretation. In some cases, there is a lack of precise correspondence between the anatomical sections and the CT and MRI images but, as explained in the introduction, no two patients are quite the same shape and the distribution of fat not only varies from patient to patient but also between the sexes.

In the third edition, many of the images have been replaced with new images taken on the most up-to-date equipment, including images taken using multidetector CT technology and 3-D volume-rendered CT images. Some of the anatomical terminology may seem unusual at first reading. It does, however, conform to *Terminologia Anatomica* (1988) – for example 'peroneal' is now replaced by 'fibular'. Accordingly, peroneus longus is now fibularis longus and the common peroneal nerve is now the common fibular nerve.

This is certainly the best text book of sectional anatomy about. It is beautifully produced and the photographs of cross sections of embalmed human material are the best I have ever seen. This book is an absolute must for radiologists and radiographers in training but it is also an essential