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

reference book for anatomists and medical students. I would also strongly recommend it to those studying for the MRCS and the intercollegiate FRCS, as the ability to interpret images is an important part of the viva component of the examination. It will be consulted frequently by anyone who wishes to enhance his or her appreciation of cross-sectional anatomy. It is a veritable gem.

Handbook of Venous Disorders, 3rd edn

HAROLD ELLIS, BARI M LOGAN, ADRIAN K DIXON

EXTENT P/H 744 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN £ 120.00, 9780340938805
PUBLISHER Hodder Arnold (London), 2009
REVIEWER Linda de Cossart
STAR RATING *****

The third edition of the *Handbook of Venous Disorders* is an essential resource for all who have an interest in venous disease. The first edition in this series was published in 1996 and was the first of its kind for venous disorders. The commitment of the editors of this third edition to continue to collate the evidence base for such diseases and their treatment is to be commended. The book is elegantly printed and its A4 size lends itself well to good production of charts, pictures and scans.

The book is in seven sections, each edited by an expert who has drawn together a series of chapters written by a multidisciplinary range of authors. The sections cover the basic considerations of venous disorders: diagnostic evaluations and venous imaging studies, management of acute thrombosis, management of chronic venous disorders, special venous problems, lymphoedema and issues in venous disease. The first section should be mandatory reading for all medical students.

All of the chapters featured in previous editions have been updated and there are 12 new ones. An excellent new feature is the final chapter, headed 'Summary of Guidelines of the American Venous Forum'. Here, the authors, all past presidents of the forum, have collated and critiqued published papers on venous disease and its treatment and created from their review a guide of 'recommended' or 'suggested' treatments, each backed by the level of evidence currently available to support them. I have found myself dipping into this on a regular basis and, while I recognise that these guides are not set in tablets of stone, they are the most up-to-date currently in press. It is now hard to imagine practice without this resource in the office.

In the last 20 years, the advance in understanding of venous disease has developed in depth and breadth. The many unanswered questions about aetiology and treatment of venous disease will continue to challenge the multidisciplinary team for

some time to come. The subject is a rich research area for 21st-century surgeons and physicians and the final section in this book offers a chapter highlighting some of these challenges. This timely edition brings together, therefore, the current knowledge and provides a perfect resource for those embarking on research as well as for clinicians in everyday practice around the world. I cannot recommend this text too highly.

War Surgery, vol 1

C GIANNOU, M BALDAN

EXTENT P/H 353 pages, Paperback and CD
PRICE/ISBN CHF 35.00, ref 0973/002 (no ISBN)
PUBLISHER International Committee of the Red Cross (Geneva), 2009
REVIEWER David Rew
STAR RATING *****

Since 1988, the ICRC has sought to capture the experience of surgeons working in war zones in the evolving textbook, *Surgery for victims of war*, to which a number of eminent British surgeons, including Mike Owen-Smith, Robin Gray and Robin Coupland, have contributed. This book is the latest incarnation of the multi-author series.

War Surgery drags surgeons from the mindset of unlimited resources in a modern civilian hospital to a dark place where operations are done by candle and torchlight, under canvas and moonlight, and where those casualties lucky enough to find a trained doctor may arrive after journeys of unimaginable torment. This book is an interesting hybrid, which is best understood as a manual for surgeons entering the ICRC or non-governmental organisation environment, needing to cross the boundary from the modern to a more primitive and disturbing world. In this world, treatment priorities are determined as much by the venom with which you are threatened by the Kalashnikov-armed, testosterone, adrenalin and ganja-fuelled child soldier as by high moral principles and where survival is a matter of negotiation. However, the lessons and principles described find much more general application and there are circumstances in which any surgeon or trauma team may need to apply them.

In 18 chapters, the book describes the special characteristics of healthcare provision in times of conflict. It provides a wealth of detail on humanitarian law; on mechanisms and epidemiology of conflict wounding; on the Red Cross wound score and wound classification systems; on the working of the casualty evacuation chain from the point of wounding; on hospital triage of mass casualties; on first aid and on ATLS® and emergency room care. It discusses the principles of the management of neglected, mismanaged and infected wounds; of retained bullets and fragments; of burn and cold injuries; and the principles of anaesthesia and