Recent Advances in Surgery 31

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EXTENT P/H 214 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN £35.00, 9781853157196
PUBLISHER RSM Press (London), 2008
REVIEWER Graham Poston
STAR RATING ***

As general surgery further subspecialises and fragments, it must become increasingly challenging for the editors of this long-running series to stay abreast of all that is going on in our field. However, they continue to do so, each edition building on the former. The series is now essential topical background reading for MRCS candidates.

The style is relatively informal but not without structure. Key points are well laid out and illustrated, therefore easily appreciated while revising before the examination. In this edition, the editors have given a greater emphasis to gastrointestinal surgery, focusing on a number of topical and controversial areas (bariatric surgery, neo-adjuvant chemoradiotherapy for pancreatic cancer, TEMs for rectal tumours, *etc.*) with other interesting contributions in areas of surgical education, training and clinical trials. The old surgical chestnut of the use of drains is also revisited. Clearly, each edition cannot be comprehensive and should be used with its predecessors as part of a continuum.

The information presented appears accurate, while the illustrations, when used, are appropriate. Most of the references are since 2000 although there are references to older landmark publications. The indexing is sufficiently comprehensive. Overall, I believe that as with previous editions the authors have achieved their objectives.

Hospital Surgery

OMER AZIZ, SANJAY PURKAYASTHA, PARASKEVAS PARASKEVA

EXTENT P/H 854 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN £29.99, 9780521682053
PUBLISHER Cambridge University Press (Cambridge), 2009
REVIEWER Tim Underwood
STAR RATING ***

Hospital Surgery is part of the Pocket Clinician series and is billed on the back cover as providing 'Expert Advice When and Where You Need It Most' in a note-based format. The book is aimed primarily at medical students and those in the early years of surgical training and is written in an accessible and very user-friendly way.

The text attempts to cover the entirety of general surgical practice and touches on those elements of emergency orthopaedics, urology and ENT required for the on-call FY1/2 doctor. It is divided into seven sections starting with peri-opera-

tive care and somewhat surprisingly finishing with clinical examination. Each section is further subdivided by topic and further still into bite-sized chunks of information laid out in a logical and sequential order. For example, the subsection covering jaundice in hepatobiliary disease contains topic headings including: definition, pathophysiology, classification, symptoms, examination and investigations, followed by a table to illustrate the differences between pre-, intra- and post-hepatic jaundice, and a helpful algorithm for management of the jaundiced patient.

There is extensive use of illustrations (although none in colour) and tables to aid both the reader's understanding and to act as a quick reference. Unfortunately, a number of the figures are too small in size and lack appropriate figure captions so that the reader must refer back to the text for an explanation. In addition, many of the management-algorithm flow diagrams feel squeezed in and hard to read. These tended not to be linked to the text and it became clear as I read a number of chapters that they are meant as stand-alone reference entries; it may have been helpful to add a 'how to use this book' section.

Overall, *Hospital Surgery* successfully fulfils its remit to provide ready access to essential information and provides the non-specialist with an introduction to surgery in general. Unfortunately, this book cannot realistically be described as pocket-sized (unless one routinely wears reinforced industrial-sized trousers) and this provides the most serious limitation to its readership. If the text was converted to an electronic format accessible on the current generation of handheld mobile devices it would be an instant hit.

Benign Breast Diseases: a surgical approach

UMA KRISHNASWAMY

EXTENT P/H 279 pages, Paperback and CD Rom
PRICE/ISBN £22.95, 8125033084
PUBLISHER Universities Press (India) Pvt Ltd (Hyderabad, India), 2009
REVIEWER Ramsay Cuttress
STAR RATING ***

Breast cancer has a high public profile but constitutes only a proportion of symptomatic referrals. Benign breast conditions in addition may be just as complex and challenging to manage as breast malignancy and, probably partly for this reason, are also commonly encountered in the subspecialty exit examinations. While the title of this book is *Benign Breast Diseases*, within the book is a description of the concept of aberrations of normal development and involution. This entire spectrum is discussed within the book.

The stated audience is those in primary care and the general surgeon with an interest in breast disease, particularly in India. The chapters of the book follow a logical sequence starting with breast development and a description of embryology