The book will be particularly refreshing for those who are studying for an examination. For those tired of ploughing through bigger books, not seeing the wood for the trees, this book approaches learning from the different but powerful perspective of self-testing and then concise explanation. The book will also appeal to those who have a broad but rusty knowledge of trauma, updating them without much effort.

I am sure this book will appeal to many readers who would not resent the investment in the knowledge it provides.

OSCEs for the MRCS Part B

JONATHAN FISHMAN, VIVIAN A ELWELL, RAJAT CHOWDHURY

EXTENT P/H	251 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£29.99 9780340985809
PUBLISHER	Hodder Arnold (London), 2009
REVIEWER	Karen Nugent
STAR RATING	**

This book is written by registrars and aimed at trainees undertaking their MRCS exam. The MRCS examination has changed from short cases to OSCEs over the past couple of years and this book brings the trainees up to date with the process and expectations of the examination process.

The book is divided into seven sections, relevant to the sections of the examinations including communication skills. Some sections refer to full-text reading within Bailey and Love, linking with the surgical textbook where further depth of knowledge may be required.

As a revision book, the sections are laid out as bullet points, which may be useful in the run-up to the exam; however, the typeface and layout make the book rather difficult to read. Each page is made up of too many bullet points rather than any readable sections. The photographs are adequate but black and white, which limits their use. The diagrams are adequate and more useful. The information is good but the book is let down by its layout and presentation.

Practical Patient Safety

JOHN REYNARD, JOHN REYNOLDS, PETER STEVENSON

EXTENT P/H	300 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£29.95, 9780199239931
PUBLISHER	Oxford University Press (Oxford), 2009
REVIEWER	Celia Ingham Clark
STAR RATING	****

This book is aimed at hospital clinicians and is intended, as the title suggests, to help them to improve practical patient

safety. In fact, most of the advice applies primarily to patient safety in the operating theatre and, as such, is of value to surgeons, anaesthetists, theatre nurses, operating department practitioners and the managers of these services.

The book is easy to read and the style is informal, which is appropriate since it is intended to provide practical advice to facilitate safer patient care. Little theoretical material is included; however, the book is well referenced and provides many good examples from both healthcare and other high-risk organisations. The section on the use of surgical safety checklists, unfortunately, does not include the recent WHO checklist that has been validated and approved for national implementation in the NHS.

The photographs are all black and white, and consequently some are not clear, which is disappointing. Boxes are used to highlight certain information but, inconsistently, sometimes for an anecdote and sometimes to bring out a key point. The diagrams are clearer and many of the tables are helpful.

There is a glossary that initially may appear redundant but includes an explanation of the importance of staff needing to share a common professional language. The appendices contain useful practical tools that could be implemented readily in any hospital in the NHS. In summary this book provides a ready practical guide for theatre staff to make patient care safer.

Hand Surgery

DAVID WARWICK, RODERICK DUNN, ERMAN MELIKYAN, JANE VADHER

EXTENT P/H	635 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£49.95, 9780199227235
PUBLISHER	Oxford University Press (Oxford), 2009
REVIEWER	Chris Khoo
STAR RATING	****

Hand Surgery is aimed at practising and trainee hand surgeons from both orthopaedic and plastic surgery backgrounds, as well as other therapists who support the delivery of surgical care. Apart from dedicated hand trainees, cross-cover arrangements now mean that other junior doctors may be expected to deal with hand trauma presenting acutely on a 'need to know, now' basis.

Hand trauma management, especially in the emergency situation, demands safe clinical decisions, based on adequate knowledge. This need has long been recognised and is especially important now that dedicated senior specialty cover may not always be immediately available.

This comprehensive multi-authored manual also includes contributions from a neurophysiologist and a rheumatologist, and covers a wide spectrum through diag-