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-

nosis, management and surgical techniques, while also dealing with complications and outcomes. Despite its compact size, it contains over 980 index references, with detailed subsections including rheumatoid arthritis (19 subindexed topics), flaps (over 30) and the wrist (nearly 40).

Physiotherapy regimens, eponyms and classifications are fully and concisely presented in an easily accessible format so that its 18 chapters also serve as a unique, single-volume source for examination revision, though it might have been useful in that regard to have included key references. An introductory anatomy summary would also have been helpful. And it would be churlish to notice that 'metephyseal', and 'trapezoid' have sneaked past the subeditor.

This excellent volume delivers crucial information and advice, elegantly presented in a practical and trim format. Its 345 grams sit easily in the pocket of a white coat and to adapt a metaphor to recognise the importance of hand function, it punches well above its weight.

Management of Cleft Lip and Palate in the Developing World

MICHAEL MARS, DEBBIE SELL, ALEX HABE

EXTENT P/H 221 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN £34.99, 9780470019689
PUBLISHER Wiley (Chichester), 2008
REVIEWER Michael Earley
STAR RATING ****

This is a practical account of what is being done in an often controversial area giving a balanced view regarding motivations, training and sustainability. The introduction by the three editors puts the case very well for treating cleft lip and palate in the developing world by non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

It is divided into five parts: Surgery and Anaesthesia; Approaches to organisation; Facial growth research; Medical Management, disability, psychological and social aspects; and Speech and Audiology.

Part one is an excellent exposition of the problems faced by large NGOs acting for altruistic reasons. As in any multi-authored book, there is a risk of repetition and unfortunately this is no exception. However, this gives a certain advantage, allowing each chapter to stand alone for the reader. Chapter 4 presents a unique opportunity to read one surgeon's rather entrenched views. It unfortunately detracts from the more balanced efforts made elsewhere throughout the book. Chapter 5 on anaesthesia would probably sit better if chapter 4 were excluded.

Part two gives an invaluable insight into how large organi-

sations such as Operation Smile and Rotaplast managed to grapple with growth, governance and management. The chapter on logistics and nursing issues reads like a 'how to do it properly' manual and the final chapter on the Sri Lankan project shows how it was all put together to achieve service, teaching, research and sustainability in one site. Part three on facial growth would probably be better as an appendix as it interrupts the general flow of the book.

Part four raises the larger questions beyond those relating to management of cleft lip and palate alone and discusses general health, cultural and psychological issues. Each chapter could easily stand alone and each makes fascinating reading. The most important outcome measurement for palate repair is speech and it is a pity that the excellent chapters on speech and language come at the end.

In conclusion, this is a unique book that is attempting something never done before. In spite of its slightly disordered presentation, it is essential reading for anyone interested in volunteer work overseas.

Surgical Pathology of Endocrine and Neuroendocrine Tumors

ASHRAF KHAN

EXTENT P/H 254 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN £99.00, 9781603273954
PUBLISHER Humana (New York), 2009
REVIEWER Adrian Bateman
STAR RATING ****

This book contains a comprehensive review of neoplasms of the endocrine system and of neuroendocrine tumours arising at other sites. The book has multiple authors who are recognised experts in their field. The book starts with an interesting section on imaging of these tumours followed by two chapters on fine needle aspiration cytology. Tumours (endocrine and non-endocrine) of the pituitary, thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal glands are then discussed, followed by chapters on endocrine tumours arising within the respiratory system, gastrointestinal tract and pancreas, breast, urogenital tract, thymus and skin.

The final chapters discuss endocrine tumours arising in younger patients, inherited syndromes and the application of molecular diagnostic techniques. The latter techniques are becoming increasingly integrated with – and complementary to – morphological assessment in diagnostic cellular pathology and it is, therefore, very important that this topic has been included. The book is well illustrated and each chapter is extensively referenced. The indexing system appears appropriate.

This book would be particularly suitable as a reference text for a general histopathologist or a specialist histopathologist practising in endocrine pathology. However, it would also be of