interest to specialists reporting in one of the other organ systems in which endocrine tumours arise.

The terminology of endocrine/neuroendocrine neoplasms arising outside the usual endocrine organs can be varied and at times confusing. For example, the terms 'carcinoid' and 'atypical carcinoid' are still in common use for tumours arising within the lung but the term '(neuro)endocrine tumour' is now recommended for neoplasms that were previously called 'carcinoid tumour' within the gastrointestinal tract. Where relevant, this issue is carefully discussed within individual chapters.

Overall, this is a very well written and carefully illustrated book that I would recommend to histopathologists practising in anatomical areas in which endocrine tumours are encountered.

Basic Surgical Techniques, 6th edn

RM KIRK

EXTENT P/H 206 pages, Paperback
PRICE/ISBN £36.99, 9780702033919
PUBLISHER Churchill Livingstone (London), 2010
REVIEWER Robert Whistance
STAR RATING *****

This comprehensive, yet concise, book describes the basic surgical techniques required of junior trainees across the breadth of surgical specialties. It consists of 14 chapters, beginning with theatre conduct, instrument handling and suturing, before providing detailed descriptions of the elementary skills required to handle blood vessels, bowel and bone. It finishes by offering advice on preventing and managing unwanted complications such as bleeding and infection.

The author's formal style is clear yet entertaining, while the content is contemporary with modern surgical practice. The author also delves into some of the basic techniques required for each of the surgical specialties, expanding the audience for which the book is appropriate and making it an ideal accompanying text for students undertaking the Basic Surgical Skills course. The book also bridges the gap between surgical pathology texts and true operative scripts and is ideal for medical students, foundation doctors and core surgical trainees. I certainly would have benefited from reading this text prior to beginning my surgical training. The prose is supplemented with frequent illustrations that assist in the understanding of the complex practical procedures described. All images are in colour and provide a step-by-step pictorial guide to each of the surgical techniques.

Overall, this is an exceptionally well-written book that appropriately meets the needs of its target audience in a concise manner. I would recommend this book to surgical trainees and it has certainly met the author's aims.

Paediatric Orthopaedics: A System of Decision-Making

BENJAMIN JOSEPH, SELVADURAI NAYAGAM, RANDALL T LODER, IAN TORODE

EXTENT P/H 527 pages, Hardback
PRICE/ISBN £99.00, 9780340889459
PUBLISHER Hodder Arnold (London), 2009
REVIEWER Nick Clarke
STAR RATING *****

Paediatric orthopaedics as a speciality is in a time of transition. There is a focus on subspecialisation within paediatrics but, at the same time, there are proponents of site-specific involvement by adult regional surgeons, for example, knee reconstruction. This important text is a timely reminder that the management of paediatric orthopaedic conditions requires clinical decision-making in the context of the whole child and not just specific technical surgery. As such it is a much welcomed and strategically important contribution.

This is particularly the case since in recent times there has been almost an explosion of paediatric orthopaedic text books. This book, however, is very different and I predict will be a mandatory reference in the out-patient department mainly for residents and fellows but also as a teaching aid for specific cases. The book focuses on clinical problems within regional pathology and here lies the book's success. Limb deficiencies are grouped together and sensible consensus-based management approaches co-ordinated. Problems are highlighted and all the text augmented as indeed is the case throughout the book by a single colour tone (blue) table and illustrational construct. Limb-length discrepancy similarly addresses all four limbs in a single section. Controversially, perhaps, there is no single chapter on cerebral palsy but a masterful approach to 'paralyses' in general. Here, the ethos of decision making, clinical features and treatment recommendations provide seminal instructional material.

Wherever the reader seeks information, the decision-making process is safe. The account of septic arthritis may not be the most comprehensive but it is a perfect vignette of decision resolution that often causes severe clinical tension, particularly for residents.

Again, the sections are adequately referenced but do not provide a full literature review – the message is in the text and the tables. Senior surgeons will find this book invaluable as a prompt for clinical teaching in the clinic. At present, this text is the most informative and practical summary of paediatric orthopaedics available; as an adjunct to the standard texts, it should be unreservedly recommended.