Book Reviews

The Orthopaedic Physical Examination : Bruce Reider, AB, MD. 1999, First Edition, Published by WB Saunders Co. Pennsylvania, 527 illustrations, Pp 402; ISBN-0-7216-7437-2.

The Orthopaedic Physical Examination is a clinical handbook for the beginners in Orthopaedics. Impressively designed cover is hardbound. There are nine chapters by eight contributors. The first chapter introduces the student to the terms and techniques. The rest of the eight chapters are devoted to the various regional examination. Each of these chapters is presented in a systematic manner starting with inspection, which includes surface markings, alignment, gait and range of motion, palpation and manipulation, which includes muscle testing, sensation, and special tests. At the end of each chapter the common conditions of the regions are tabulated and the physical signs are enumerated under the heads. The authors have used good photographic illustrations of the models to demonstrate the physical signs, muscle testing, range of movements and gait. The author has tried to show some of the clinical findings like fixed flexion deformity in hip, abduction deformity, Trendelenberg's test and Phelp's test on the models, these demonstrations look artificial, unconvincing and unrealistic. He could have demonstrated these tests on the patients with these positive findings, which would have

been more realistic and appealing. At one place during demonstration of abduction contracture of hip (Fig 5-14, 5-15), illustration shows a textbook being used as a foot block to provide the compensation. It is painful to see a book being used as a foot block; the author should delete this picture in the next edition. The book uses only photographic illustration and they are excellent and can be well correlated with the description, in all there are 550 illustrations. Lastly, there is a Glossary in the end of the book, which enumerates all the tests with brief descriptions.

In this book, the presentation of clinical examination is widely different in pattern than what is traditionally taught and learnt in our clinics and in class rooms, hence, this book is unlikely to catch the fancy of our students and the post graduates. However, it is worthwhile to go through this book to understand some of the well illustrated physical tests.

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Abdominal Wall Hernias - Principles and Management. Editors, Bendavid R, Abrahamson J, Arregui ME, Flament JB, Phillips EH. 1st edition. Published by Springer-Verlag, New York Inc. 2001. 792 pages. Price Rs 8716.

Books dedicated to abdominal wall hernias are vanishingly few and of great interest to general surgeon. "He that will not apply new remedies must expect new evils; for time is the great innovator" - Sir Francis Bacon 1625. The 'new remedies' in hernia amount to a paradigm shift from the old regime and this book by a renowned herniologist like Bendavid epitomizes this sea change in the management of hernia in the new millennium. Illustrated by 738 figures including 48 in colour it is a visual treat. As many as 10 chapters discuss the pathology of hernia including a brilliant exposition on the metabolic aspects of hernia which is a pioneering concept. Almost universal use of synthetic mesh in hernia surgery has neces-

sitated inclusion of 17 chapters on biomaterials. Other interesting and useful bits of information are to be found in the chapters on paediatric and geriatric hernia, emergencies, female hernia and medico-legal aspects. The technical aspects of all common procedures including laparoscopic surgery are of course extensively covered. Authors from both sides of the Atlantic have been given an even role in the elucidation of the hernia diathesis. All in all, it is a wonderfully fresh product that will serve as a point of reference for years to come.

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Chapman's Orthopaedic Surgery : Edited by Michel W Chapman, MD. Publisher Lippincot Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia. 3rd edition 2001, 4 Volume set text plus CD-ROM; ISBN : 0-7817-1487-7. Price \$425.00, Hard bound.

The third edition of this book comes after a gap of seven years with title changed from Operative Orthopaedics to Orthopaedic surgery, may be just to dispel the impression that the book is not an operative manual but Orthopaedic text book. The book has 180 chapters under nine sections with contribution from 248 authors. The presentation of each chapter is very methodical covering systematically the anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, patho-physiology, diagnostic evaluation, non operative treatment, operative management, summary/conclusion. The presentation of the chapter is in excellent format with sub titles in blue fonts and easy to read. The clinical and operative procedures are depicted stepwise by B&W

photographs and line drawings, most of which are from monograms and classic books. The authors have used the illustrations, tables, summary boxes, bulleted lists and diagrams very freely in two colour formats to make the subject easy to understand, in all, there are about 5970 illustrations. They have used the treatment algorithms frequently to make the complicated treatment plan, simple and easy to remember. The authors have highlighted the pitfalls and complications in each chapter and have provided their own views in author's perspective and author's preferred method of management. The hints and tricks that appear in some of the chapters are very valuable tips for the young surgeon to avoid complications, which one learns from experience. The unique aspect of this book is that the authors have categorized the references into groups like classic article, review article, basic research article and clinical results and outcome study are annotated with symbols for easy recognition.