Book Reviews

The Elements of Fracture fixation by Anand J. Thakur MS (Ortho). FCPS, D Ortho. Churchill Livingstone Publisher, 1997 New York pp 185. Paper Back. ISBN 0443055475

Internal fixation of the fracture is the common procedure undertaken by the Orthopaedic surgeons in their practice. The screws, nails, wires, plates are often used implants by them. Hence, it is essential that every surgeon and the resident knows the biomechanics of his tools and understands the scientific basis of their application and their limitations. This will help in optimal use of the implants and prevent the most undesired outcome after internal fixation, the implant failure. The biomechanics of the fixation equipment is rather inaccessible subject to students and surgeons and briefly discussed by the major textbooks and rarely talked about by the teachers to their students. This book by Dr Anand Thakur is a good attempt to introduce the basics of elements of fracture fixation to the students of Orthopaedics.

The book is impressively printed and the material is presented in eight chapters, the first two are introductory chapters on terminology of fracture fixation and on the implant metals.

Gunshot Wounds by Vincent JM, Di Maio; second edition, published by CRC Press Boca Raton, London, New York, Washington, D.C; 1999; 402 pages; 229 illustrations; hard bound; price \$84.95; ISBN No. 0-8493-8163-0.

This book written by an author of Vincent JM Di Maio's stature is a real masterpiece on the subject. The author has dealt with all aspects of gun shot wounds in a very lucid and authoritative manner. Not only the book imparts in-depth knowledge of forensic aspects of these common injuries, it also clears many misconceptions, with logical reasoning. Even aspects like historical facts about manufacture of different types of cartridges by different companies in USA have been mentioned

Refined Begg for Modern Times by Vijay P Jayade. First edition., Published by Mrs Anuradha V Jayade, Eureka Towers, Hubli-580 023. Karnataka, India, Sept 2001. 145 Pages. Price Rs 500/-

This is a much awaited book by a renowned and respected teacher of orthodontics on a subject which is very close to most Indian Orthodontists. In Indian orthodontic practice, the Begg appliance philosophy and treatment has been followed by the vast majority of practitioners. In recent times this treatment system has been criticized by many who have drawn attention to its various shortcomings. This has, in turn, given way to a switch-over by many operators to alternative appliance systems. The author in this book has highlighted various causes of loss of popularity of the Begg appliance which, he says, can be overcome by specific refinements in the technique. This book is about these refinements and how an operator can incorporate them into his treatment protocol.

In his very well argued chapters he has defined and described the differences between conventional Begg and refined Begg under these headings - changes in concepts, improvements in the hardware and modification in mechanics in all stages of treatment.

Remaining six chapters discuss the various implants of fracture fixation, viz bone screws, plates, IM nails, DHS, wires, pins and lastly on the external fixators. The designs and mechanics of these implants are explained in simple line diagrams, most of them are sourced from the original classics. The author has given attention to the smaller details like, when discussing the plates they have explained how many screws, how close to fracture site, plate removal and regional considerations for plating for various bones. Important points have been tabulated for better memorization and easy reference.

The only shortcoming of the book is, it does not discuss the biodegradable implants and the implants used in spinal fracture surgery. This book deserves a place in every surgeon's and resident's reference library.

Contributed by :-

Lt Col GR Joshi

Reader, Department of Orthopaedics, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune - 411 040.

chronologically, indicating the knowledge and involvement of the author with the topic. The numerous photographs and line diagrams ensure that the contents are imprinted in the mind of the reader forever. In a nutshell, it is a book, which must be read by everyone dealing with firearm injuries - students as well as qualified people alike. Establishments like medical colleges, ballistic labs, armament technology schools, crime investigators etc must have it in their library.

Contributed by :-

Lt Col RB Kotabagi

Associate Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune - 411 040.

The chapters on appliance construction and stages of refined Begg are well described while the one on incorporation of contemporary treatment concepts would provide revolutionary ideas to an average Begg operator. The design and construction of various auxiliaries have been nicely explained with excellent photographs. However, a more detailed description of various newer wires, perhaps as a separate chapter would have enhanced the value of the book further.

On the whole this is a mentally stimulating book for any orthodontist who is familiar with the conventional Begg treatment system. The author's argument, that in the Indian context, the Begg treatment system in its refined form should form an important instrument in the orthodontist's armamentarium, is convincing and well supported.

Contributed by :-

Maj Jaideep Sengupta

Reader, Department of Dental Surgery, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune - 411 040.