Textbook of Orthopaedics and Trauma : Edited by Dr.GS Kul-karni, Published by Jaypee Brothers, New Delhi, First edition 1999. Vol. 1-4 3937 pages, hardbound price Rs 4500/- US \$ 150.

O orthopaedics and Trauma is one of the largest speciality of surgery, with more than fifteen sub-specialities. The author has covered the wide spectrum of this speciality in a comprehensive manner. This book is published by "Indian Orthopaedics Association" and provides collective experiences of other senior and experienced Orthopaedics surgeons of India. The book has covered in detail the topics of paralytic poliomyelitis, pyogenic infection of bone and joints, tuberculosis of bone and joints, and Hansen's disease which are common in this part of the world. At the same time, the developments like joint replacement, distraction osteogenesis (Ilizarov & JESS). Interlocking intramedullary nailing, spinal instrumentation and arthroscopy have been adequately dealt with.

Raising a handicapped child : Author : Charlotte E. Thompson. Oxford University Press Inc., New York, 1999, US\$ 15.95.

This book deals with various problems faced by parents of a handicapped child and provides an excellent way to understand the ability of such child. Rearing up such children is an herculean task and rightly so many have questions to ask from doctor. All questions and exercises have been explained in a simple way, however some of them will need local modification before accep-

WAR SURGERY Challenges in the new millennium. By Col ML Panhani and Maj TS Bhatti, Command Hospital (CC) Lucknow -226 002

This Book which is the product of the proceeds of an update on war surgery held at the command hospital (Central Command) is an attempt by the authors to provide the reader with an overview of the subject.

In this aim it fills a much felt gap as it is one of the few publications from the Armed Forces on this subject.

In recent times the book brings out the relevance of the field of war surgery well by a lucid historical narrative of the subject and draws the reader from the past to the present. It is liberally interspersed with quotations from classical texts. Each chapter begins with a quote, which no doubt the authors feel sums up the content of that section.

Even though the book starts from the beginning in logical sequence the field of battlefield first aid and evacuation does not receive adequate attention, and this above all is the weakest link in our chain of provision of a trauma service.

An attempt has been made to bring out the uniqueness and problems of the triage without going into details. A backup of the ideas expressed with statistics drawn from recent conflicts and the triage centres (if any) that were established would have been welcome.

The chapter on burns is heartening and reflects the authors commitment to their speciality. A unique section of this book is that of the nuclear scenario which is dealt with in some detail. However it would have been more useful if some thoughts on the organisation

The book comprehensively deals with Orthopaedic diseases as well as trauma. It has highlighted the problems peculiar to our country especially in chapters of Bone and joint Tuberculosis, deformities resulting due to Poliomyelitis and Hansens's disease. The principles and concepts of Ilizarov in treatment of Orthopaedic problems have been well covered. The textbook is comparable to any standard textbook, written by Western authors. It will be very useful to all postgraduates and practising Orthopaedic surgeons. This book should be a part of the library at various Orthopaedic centres of Armed Forces.

Contributed by

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tance.

Paediatrician and medical officers involved in care of such children, will benefit immensely with the book.

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of a surgical facility in a contaminated area were included and if the scenario of chemical warfare which is a more likely threat in the third world setting were looked into.

Even though, true to the style of a book on war surgery a separate chapter on amputations have been provided, the current and correct method of amputation should have been described. The inescapable need to illustrate the point by providing diagrams is glaringly evident.

The section on splints is noteworthy, as splintage is an integral part of evacuation and a field where a maximum amount of innovation and improvisation is brought out. However it fails to mention the technological advances made and the marvellous array of products commercially available. Many of these are specially produced and marketed for military use.

The discussion on prophylactic antibiotic policy is illustrative but makes no mention of any recommendations as to which antibiotic should be given in today's age.

Even though the book is an admittedly humble enterprise on the part of the authors who provide much honest introspection the conflict between wanting to create a treatise on the subject and realising the limitations and being unable to do so is evident.

One feels that the book should have provided the reader with a 'start point' and served to show the way for the interested to follow. The book in its attempt at simplification fails in this objective.

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