dissections provide novel and very instructive demonstrations of the functional anatomical complexes controlling tongue, pharynx and jaws, and could well seed ideas for instructive prospections of adult material. Numerous figures in themselves are useful for general anatomical tuition.

The temptation to regard the book as an atlas must be resisted. Extensive text introduces the several sections. The approach is holistic: Bosma is a great advocate of combining structure with function and development, and operators such as ‘sensorimotor mechanisms’ are frequently found in the exposition. The legends to the figures are also full, and are equally vital criticism of this book is that many of its brilliant insights are masked by the use of jargon.

It is an important, novel, and very well produced book. If I had used it while involved in neonatal care I should have benefited by a better understanding of the movements and behaviour of the baby, and of my manipulation of instruments. It is obviously to be commended both to paediatricians and to paediatric nurses, and this must have been the prime objective of the U.S. National Institute of Health in funding its production. But it is also an exquisite presentation of the principles of anatomy in action, and should therefore be available to any serious teaching department.

R. PRESLEY


In the first sentence of the preface the authors come within an ace of apologising for having written yet another textbook of human anatomy. However, even after a short while spent looking at this book, it is manifest that it is not simply ‘another textbook of anatomy’. The authors have masterfully bridged the gap between the students’ acquisition of a basic knowledge of human anatomy and the extension/application of this knowledge into the clinical field. I hope and suspect that this book will become a standard text and in so doing I am sure that it will positively encourage the student in his efforts to learn anatomy and also help him to appreciate the elegance and beauty of human morphology.

The merits of the book are many. First the text is eminently readable and again, in contrast to the rather exacting text of a dissecting manual, will greatly help the student to understand the subject. My first reaction to some of the anecdotes, and indeed to some of the cartoon drawings in the glossary was that they were a little flippant for such a textbook, but it was when I realised just how apposite these were that the authors’ obvious intentions of actively helping the reader became fully apparent. The second forte of the book is the wealth of high quality illustrations: many clear line diagrams, photographs and superb radiographs and computer tomograms accompanied by generously numbered parallel drawings. Third, the short sections on regional surface anatomy are an especially welcome inclusion. Fourthly, I particularly liked the anatomical glossary, and not just because it was located right at the beginning of the Introductory section rather than being forlornly sandwiched between the last Chapter and the Index: it is all too easy to forget the decline in the teaching of the classics in Britain and also to forget the considerable number of overseas students for whom the language of anatomy could become an additional obstacle.

My only disappointment lay in the Introductory section on basic tissues and organ systems. I would assume that students would have covered these areas in greater detail in introductory and histology sessions in the same way that the authors assume that a separate neuroanatomy course would also have been given to those using the book. Also, assuming that the students would have completed an extensive dissection of the human body during their course, such basic introductory material would have been mastered prior to using this book. Thus I felt that the Introductory section was somewhat misplaced. Whilst medical students usually gain an adequate knowledge of soft and hard tissues, it is often apparent that difficulty is encountered in appreciating three dimensional relationships within the body. Here the book comes into its own as it forces the student to cerebrate, perhaps by converting his own reminiscences of the afternoon’s dissecting session into three dimensional images with the aid of the radiographic and C.A.T. illustrations or by tackling the searching review questions at the end of the sections. The value of the book in revision, as well as in the initial process of learning and understanding, must not be underestimated.
Certainly there will be a demand for a second edition and with regard to this I should like to sow two seeds in the authors' minds. First, it might be helpful if a short summary of modern radiographical techniques as applied to soft and hard tissues as used in the production of the illustrations were included to introduce the reader to an important aspect of late twentieth-century applied anatomy. Second, in view of its major importance, would the authors consider grouping the sections on the lymphatic system together so that the information pertaining to individual regions is not hidden in the individual sections?

The reviewer is a non-medically qualified anatomist and he can only regret that this book was not available ten years ago when he started teaching the subject. It would have been a most valuable adjunct for such an individual transferring from one life science subject to another as it undoubtedly will be to the 'undergraduate students and those sitting for higher examinations' for whom the authors intended it.

R. M. SANTER


Arthroscopy has probably progressed more slowly than endoscopy of other systems of the body and certainly arthroscopy is less well advanced in exploration of the shoulder than in the knee. This slim, lavishly and beautifully illustrated (usually of the right shoulder) volume is based on over 300 retrospective reviews of arthroscopies performed by the authors during 1982–5, supported by 200 dissections of the shoulder. The first chapter describes the technique and the various approaches to the shoulder used by the authors. Succeeding chapters each deal with a selected part of the region, e.g. the long tendons, the capsular ligaments, the labrum, the interior of the glenohumeral joint itself, the rotator cuff, the subacromial bursa and the acromioclavicular joint. Each chapter begins with a short anatomical account. This varies in length from chapter to chapter: for example, the articular surfaces and synovial membrane of the glenohumeral joint are described in only half a page while seven or eight pages are devoted to the glenohumeral ligaments which in some textbooks of anatomy receive scant mention. Subsequently, the chapters deal with arthroscopic findings both in normal joints and in various pathological conditions. There is a very brief, and rather superfluous, glossary of anatomical terms, a short bibliography and an index.

This is a specialised book, very useful for the orthopaedic surgeon, but, particularly at its price, probably of appeal to relatively few anatomists.

R. A. STOCKWELL