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Book Reviews

CONCEPTOS Y CONTROVERSIAS SOBRE EL PIE ZAMBO. UPDATE AND CONTROVERSIES ON CLUB FOOT. T. Epeldegui. Madrid, Servicio de Cirugia Ortopedica y Traumatologica, 1993. 295 pp.

This book is the result of an international conference, held in Madrid in April 1993. All speakers submitted a summary of their lecture; unfortunately, in some cases, the abstract is too short, providing little information.

The quality of the faculty is impressive. The book begins with an interesting chapter, by Diaz-Faes, on the history, art, and literature relative to club foot. The work of Simons, on the anomalous neurovascular anatomy, and that of Carroll, on the pathological anatomy, are particularly noteworthy. The pediatric orthopaedic surgeon will benefit from the chapter by Dimeglio et al.; their non-operative approach, with intensive physical therapy, is quite interesting. Lehman contributed a very interesting chapter on the anatomical basis for the operative incisions and on magnetic resonance-imaging studies. The text concludes with a discussion of different functional evaluation systems for use after treatment that are worth looking at. The issue of a complete subtalar joint release, advocated by Simons and opposed by French orthopaedists, was never resolved.

The major drawback of the book is the lack of a consensus; the authors express their ideas, but we do not see a common agreement. The surgeon who treats club foot will enjoy reading this variety of opinions, but the resident and general orthopaedic surgeon may not find much help when seeking answers.

Luciano Dias, M.D.

A SHORT PRACTICE OF SPINAL SURGERY. ED. 2. Henry V. Crock. New York, Springer, 1993. \$145.00, 338 pp.

This text is essentially a monograph, written by the internationally known and respected spine surgeon Henry Crock and updated from the original edition published in 1983. The book consists of nine chapters that basically outline Dr. Crock's opinions on topics ranging from diseases of the intervertebral disc, including internal disc disruption and disc prolapse, to spondylolisthesis, spinal stenosis, and management of complications and of patients who have had a failed spinal operation. It was not intended to be a complete review of these topics; rather, the goal was to present Dr. Crock's diagnostic and treatment regimens. However, there are extensive references throughout the text, which keep the material relevant and supported by the recent literature.

The first chapter deals with isolated disc resorption. Dr. Crock presents a convincing argument for the definition of this problem as a pathological entity, differentiated from simple disc degeneration. He reviews, elegantly and with use of excellent radiographic, photographic, and anatomical materials, the pathological anatomy. He also presents his own operative results, which show an approximately 86 per cent rate of partial or complete success.

The second chapter is devoted to internal disc disruption. There is still some controversy as to the sensitivity and specificity of discography, but the entity of internal disruption appears to be gaining more widespread acceptance. Dr. Crock points out that one of the critical elements of interpretation of discography is the recording of the patient's response to pain, not simply the architectural abnormality. He presents a good review of the technique of anterior interbody arthrodesis and the related operative anatomy; surgeons must understand both before undertaking this operation. There is a good section on the results of anterior interbody arthrodesis, which will be useful for anybody doing the operation.

The chapter on disc prolapse contains some excellent myelograms, but the magnetic resonance images are not well reproduced

or quite up to the quality that one would generally expect from the original images. Again, the section on the treatment of lumbar disc prolapse is an excellent review of the technique of discectomy, and the photographs and microscopic slides of the relevant anatomy, especially the vascular anatomy of the individual nerve-roots, are exceptional and should be studied by all spine surgeons. The section on spondylolisthesis gives a good review of the applicable treatment options, although it presents a fairly conservative approach to the treatment of spondylolisthesis. The sections on spinal stenosis and cervical disc disease describe a well thought out, reasonable approach to the treatment of these disorders.

Over-all, each chapter is well organized and presents a thoughtful approach to the individual topics. If there is any weakness, it is related to the fact that a book written by a single author is biased toward that author's type of practice and experience; even bearing that in mind, I think that the book is generally very well written.

The most interesting and valuable components of the book are the excellent radiographic and anatomical reproductions, which provide an exceptional review of the vascular, pathological, and operative anatomy and will be beneficial for anyone who performs spinal operations.

Robert Viere, M.D.

SURGERY FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS. Edited by Mack L. Clayton and Charley J. Smyth. New York, Churchill Livingstone, 1992. \$95.00, 414 pp.

This comprehensive book was edited by two of the world's authorities on rheumatoid arthritis and had five additional contributors. The clinical material, which is impressively documented, is drawn from the experience of Clayton and the authors, all of whom are associated with The Denver Orthopedic Clinic.

The text begins with several chapters by Smyth that focus on the medical considerations of the disease. These chapters provide an excellent review of the pathogenesis, the clinical and laboratory features, and the medical aspects of treatment. The operative treatment is then addressed from an over-all point of view by Clayton, beginning with an interesting chapter detailing its history. An excellent chapter devoted to the role and benefits of synovectomy is also included in this section.

The remainder of the text is organized according to anatomical regions, to include all of the major joints of the upper and lower extremities and the spine. Each chapter is organized in a fairly standard fashion; a presentation of the pertinent anatomy is followed by a discussion of the progression of the pathological process of rheumatoid arthritis. Diagnostic and operative procedures are then discussed, with a good review of reported results. The illustrations and photographic reproductions, which are the contribution of Clayton's son, Jim, are well done. An adequate, current bibliography is found with each chapter.

The text is well organized and very thorough in its scope. It is highly recommended for residents, fellows, and practitioners who deal with patients who have rheumatoid arthritis, particularly patients who are potential candidates for operative treatment.

Robert G. Volz, M.D.

MICROVASCULAR SURGERY OF THE EXTREMITIES. Edited by Zhongjia Yu and translated by Bingfang Zeng. New York, Springer, 1993. \$298.00, 521 pp.

Succeeding Chen Zhong-wei at the Shanghai Sixth People's Hospital, Yu has continued the advancement of microsurgery worldwide

that was characteristic of his predecessor. This book is a compilation of microsurgical techniques applicable to reconstruction of the extremities, as described by an experienced and sage physician.

The book is organized in a somewhat unusual fashion. The pertinent anatomy of the donor regions is presented in the first chapter, followed by chapters on application of knowledge of the anatomy to transplantation. The anatomical chapters are relevant but incomplete: the beginning microsurgeon will require additional information. The anatomical drawings lack clarity and will be of little help to the reader.

The second chapter covers the technical aspects of dissection of each of the presented composite tissue transfers. Subtle anatomical measurements and potential pitfalls are described. Once again, the illustrations lack clarity and need to be supplemented with additional material.

The chapters on clinical application and techniques are comprehensive and are complete with illustrations that demonstrate Yu's vast technical abilities. There are chapters on reconstruction of the thumb, of the hand with loss of multiple fingers, and of the hand itself, as well as on free composite tissue reconstruction of the lower extremity. These chapters are clearly the strong point of the book. Many subtle tips on dissection and reconstruction are provided through discerning descriptions of the operative technique. Personal modifications of previously described operative procedures are combined with new and ingenious procedures, such as the reconstruction of the metacarpus. Problems that may develop relative to the procedures, and how to avoid or address them, are included. These chapters are replete with illustrative case reports, each of which seems to exceed the preceding one. Although functional outcomes are discussed intermittently, the text was not intended to cover clinical results.

Despite the focus on microsurgery, Yu appropriately delineates the application of conventional reconstruction. Prostheses are still recommended if microsurgical reconstruction is not deemed reasonable to improve functional outcome.

This is an important book. It should be in the libraries of microsurgeons and, certainly, in those of medical centers. The text is not encyclopedic in its descriptions of all available flaps, nor was it meant to be. However, it fulfills Yu's objectives by describing application of selective procedures that have been instrumental in his practice.

Paul C. Dell, M.D.

APLEY'S SYSTEM OF ORTHOPAEDICS AND FRACTURES. ED. 7. A. Graham Apley and Louis Solomon. Stoneham, Massachusetts, Butterworth Heinemann, 1993. \$95.00, 736 pp.

As evidenced in both the foreword and the preface, the authors are all too aware that the orthopaedic universe is constantly expanding outward at a tremendous speed. Reminiscent of the ultimate examination question, "describe the universe and give two examples," Apley and Solomon answer the challenge of describing the orthopaedic universe in approximately 700 pages. The first edition was published in 1959; this is the seventh edition, which is evidence that all segments of the orthopaedic community felt the need for such a book.

The text is divided into three parts: "General Orthopaedics," "Regional Orthopaedics," and "Fractures and Joint Injuries." Concise, thorough, and very readable descriptions of orthopaedic entities in these categories are presented in logical order. Of particular note, in the section on regional orthopaedics, are the "Notes on Applied Anatomy," which conclude the discussion of each region.

The text is distinguished by its clarity and wit — for example,

there is discussion of the so-called Terry Thomas sign — which makes it a pleasure to read. The chapters on metabolic and endocrine disorders and orthopaedic operations are particularly to be commended for their clear descriptions of current basic concepts. The references and suggestions for additional reading that follow each section are extremely valuable. The illustrations, both black and white and color, are appropriate and clear. Finally, mention must be made of the attention given to systematic, thorough physical examination, which, in this day of multiple mechanical and radiographic tests, is all too often neglected.

In my opinion, this text belongs in every practicing orthopaedist's library, to be referred to when he or she is confronted with a problem not commonly seen in an increasingly specialized practice. Similarly, orthopaedic surgeons in training will find that the book can help them to keep their perspective of orthopaedics, and that it is an excellent source for reviewing for examinations. Directors of orthopaedic programs and of medical schools that give adequate curriculum time to orthopaedics will find it ideal as a reference source.

Paul Curtiss, M.D.

FRACTURES OF THE ACETABULUM. ED. 2. Emile Letournel and Robert Judet. Translated and edited by Reginald A. Elson. New York, Springer, 1993. \$198.00, 733 pp.

This book presents the historical evolution of the operative treatment of acetabular fractures and gives honor to Letournel's mentor, Judet, who died several years ago. Elson, who translated and edited the text, captured the intent and relish of Letournel's style. The 458 figures and 1754 illustrations are excellent in quality and informational content. The text is concisely organized and covers anatomy, biomechanics, radiology, classification, clinical study, and general principles. The indications for newer diagnostic tools, such as computerized tomographic scanning and three-dimensional reconstruction, are discussed, and new devices for internal fixation are described.

The most important aspect of the text is Letournel's detailed report of the long-term results of work from his center in Choisy. Of 940 acetabular fractures, of which 90 per cent were managed operatively, 539 were personally evaluated with improved statistical methods to correlate features of fracture types, operative approaches, time to operation, and articular congruency with the functional outcome over time. Letournel points out that accurate assessment of incongruence after trauma and after operative treatment is still not possible.

While his view is controversial, Letournel strongly opposes the treatment of acetabular fractures with traction and supports this view with a rational argument. Also controversial are his recommendations for the prophylactic use of antibiotics and for prophylaxis against deep venous thrombosis.

This is not just an operative text; it describes plans of treatment for the non-operative and operative management of acetabular injuries, on the basis of the results of experience gained over thirty years. The work clearly documents the improvement in the learning curve in the treatment of acute fractures.

Letournel reports the successes and — more importantly — the failures of treatment, and he attempts to assess the causes of failure. Complications also are examined; their study is important for pre-operative assessment and for the provision of information about relative risks to patients.

This will become the authoritative text on the evaluation and treatment of acetabular fractures. All future outcome studies on the treatment of these fractures will be compared with the results of this work.

Thomas A. Russell, M.D.