used but it is probably better to use a tension band cerclage wire technique (Weber et al, 1980).

The case reported in this paper is unusual for two reasons.

Firstly the mechanism of injury was not of excessive contraction of the quadriceps mechanism at the time of "take off" but the patient distinctly remembers feeling and hearing the patella fracture at the time he forcefully extended his knees during the clearance of the crosspole. This was not an injury of the "take off" leg. Secondly the fracture was through the mid portion of the patella, and not through the lower pole.

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BOOK REVIEW

Title: ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY NURSING, 2nd EDITION
Author: David Bradley
Publishers: Bailliere Tindall, London, 1984. ISBN 0-7020-1048-0
Price: £7.95

This is a well intended and written second edition book, a rarity in good British Accident and Emergency (A & E) literature, compared to our American colleagues who are leaders in this field.

Most basic and some advanced aspects of A & E work are covered which are informative with numerous diagrams and photographs. Chapters include trauma, resuscitation, medical, eye, orthopaedic and obstetric emergencies, burns and poisoning. Additional helpful chapters cover paediatric problems, care of elderly and aggressive patient, emergency childbirth and flying squad. The emphasis on adapting nursing process is unlikely to be practical on short-stay patients — only more paper work will be created without real benefit.

A & E has long been regarded as a hotch-potch of variety and advanced first aid, but has rapidly gained momentum and recognition as a speciality in its own right and research is growing. This book loses credit in missing emphasis on triage, research, information on discharging patients and preventive care. No mention is made of verbal and non-verbal communication, especially with regard to ethnic minority patients.

Despite the short-falls, this book is a good basic foundation useful for learners, trained staff and practitioners of first aid. It is easily readable and has a direct approach. There is a good appendix, comprehensive index and chapter guides for further reading. Price is a little expensive at £7.95.

Mahendra M. Joshi