BOOK REVIEW

Title: A COLOUR ATLAS OF JOINT REPLACEMENT OF THE WRIST AND HAND
Authors: D. C. Ferlic, M. L. Clayton and J. L. Clayton
Publisher: Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc. UK Agents: Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd.
Price: £17 **ISBN** 0 7234 1051 8

The title of this colour Atlas is "A Colour Atlas of Joint Replacement of the Wrist and Hand". The closest we get to the wrist joint is replacement of the trapezium at the base of the thumb. There is in fact no mention of the wrist joint proper for which of course there are several replacements.

This is simply a blow-by-blow pictorial account of the replants of the joints which are replaced in the hand. These are usually carried out for the destruction which follows upon connective tissue disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and also in osteo-arthritis, also rarely after injury disturbs a joint. The authors rightly point out that silicone elastomer has been the most forgiving of the materials used for replacement. The description is confined to the Swanson prosthesis though the Niebauer with a dacron covering is mentioned. The latter anchors to the bone medulla and does not piston which is an advantage. The problem is that it is hard to salvage. BIOMET OEC have produced a joint which overcomes these problems. In the section on Metacarpophalangeal replacement the transverse incision is used. Our experience suggests that there is more post-operative swelling and (due to division of lymphatics and possible damage to venules) complete division of the ulnar intrinsics is sometimes difficult.

I am unhappy about the advocacy of passing a Kirschner wire down the flexor sheath after proximal interphalangeal joint replacement as this may cause damage and adhesions to the flexor apparatus. Finally, in the section on carpometacarpal joint replacement it is sometimes necessary to release the adductor to achieve adequate mobilising of the metacarpal. This should be added for completion. The photographs and diagrams are of high quality throughout. It is important to appreciate that there is no substitute for direct observation of technique and the detail of tissue handling. This book may be of help to those who may have to describe an operative technique to an examiner.

Basil Helal

BOOK REVIEW

Title: ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SPORTS MEDICINE
Author: David F. Tver and Howard F. Hunt
Publisher: Chapman Hall, London, New York 1986
Price: £29.50 **232 pages** **ISBN** 0 412 01361 4

There is a definite need for a basic, informative, easy to use reference work for all those people who have to cope with the increasingly technical material currently being published in the area of sports medicine. The two authors seem well qualified to take on this task since they have backgrounds in medicine and physical education respectively. Tver has written reference works on industrial medicine and infectious diseases, while Hunt is Chairman of the Physical Education Department at the University of California. Basil Helal, President of BASM and Orthopaedic Adviser to the British Olympic Association has been engaged to contribute some of the entries for non-American sports in order to widen its appeal outside North America.

The book's arrangement is, as the title suggests, fairly straightforward, and each entry is listed in alphabetical order. There is a contents page and a glossary at the end of the main sequence which provides short explanations for technical terms ranging from "cyanosis" to "shin splints". The information included throughout the dictionary is of a fairly technical nature and there has been no attempt to popularise it. Dr. Craig Sharp, Lecturer in the Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences at the University of Birmingham, agreed with this observation. All the items included are fully explained, the aim being to give "state of the art information, diagnosis and understanding of physical and sports conditions". The authors do not, and it is not the place to do so, set out to give any information about the treatment of injuries. However, I do not feel that the coverage is comprehensive and a number of terms which I would have expected to find are not included, e.g. endorphins and orthostatic tolerance.

I also felt that, since the entries were in alphabetical order, the contents page was not as useful as it might have been because it simply reproduces the alphabetical sequence adopted throughout. Cross-references would have been a better addition since their omission means that you have to know the 'accepted' term for the subject in which you are interested e.g. a search for verrucas yielded nothing, the entry being under plantar warts; anabolic steroids does not get a separate entry, but forms the bulk of the entry for steroids.

This lack of cross-referencing will make use of the book quite difficult for those with a general concern for exercise and physical fitness, a group which the authors suggest will find the book useful to have on their bookshelves. It seems more likely that its main market will be clinicians and health and fitness professionals. Undoubtedly there is a larger market amongst this group in North America than in the United Kingdom. However, despite its limitations in coverage and cross-referencing it is still a useful addition to the literature of sports medicine and may well appeal to BASM members.

Michele Shoebridge