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BOOK REVIEW

Title: A COLOUR ATLAS OF SURFACE ANATOMY
Authors: Kenneth M. Backhouse and Ralph T. Hutchings
Publisher: Wolfe Medical Publications, London 1986
 Price: £19.50 310 pages 490 Coloured photos Index ISBN 0 7234 0801 7

The authors had in mind the needs of not only doctors and dentists but also those in professions supplementary to medicine, physical education and art. The combination of an experienced anatomist (Reader at the Royal College of Surgeons) and a first class medical photographer has produced one of the best colour atlases Wolfe have published. Great credit must also go to the models who must have spent many long, cold and often embarrassing hours during photographic sessions.

Having been a colleague of Ken Backhouse in Newcastle some 35 years ago, I can see how his many interests have had a large influence on the book. His early interest in plastic surgery is obvious from the first few pages and his detailed pictures of the movements of the hand reflects the self insertion of needle electrodes into the lumbrical and interosseous muscles of his own hands for electromyographic studies. Photographs of the chest are superimposed on photographs of the bronchial tree taken from coloured resin casts and of the lungs injected with coloured gelatin (and again I have memories of helping Ken with some of these and having to hide semi-decomposing lungs from pigs, seals and monkeys from the eyes of passers-by).

Other photographs have the blood and lymph vessels and nerves superimposed and techniques of manual palpation and of local anaesthetic injection clearly illustrated. My main disappointment was a lack of photographs of the body in vigorous action, as Ken when teaching anatomy to physical education students used a lively and practical approach to the actions of the body in athletics, gymnastics and ballet. This should prove a most valuable book to students of medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy, physical education and art. The photographs are excellent and the descriptive text both detailed and easily understood. Very good value for under twenty pounds.

Henry E. Robson

BOOK REVIEW

Title: MANUEL PRATIQUE DE MÉDECINE DU SPORT
Author: P. Pilardeau (in French)
Publisher: Masson Editeur, Paris 1987
 Price: 150 Fr. F. 200 pages 60 figs. Index Soft cover ISBN 2 225 81033 8

This book is designed for medical students, general practitioners and students entering diploma courses in Sports Medicine.

In France, specific training for doctors in Sports Medicine leading to a Diploma enabling a general practitioner to achieve specialist status is well established. There is a well developed principle of examination of the athlete for aptitude and fitness for a sport which creates a special need for this discipline.

M. Pilardeau's book sets out to prepare the student on a very broad base. He begins with chapters on normal physiology with detailed examination of the effects of exercise.

A section is then dedicated to the aptitude assessment as used in France and the regulations thereto, especially those conditions contra-indicating various activities and aims of particular training.

M. Pilardeau then considers the relationships between medical conditions such as allergy and cardiac problems and physical exercise, both from the point of view of risks and benefits.

Sections are next devoted to consideration of youth, growth, age, physical — mental handicap, hormonal effects and so on.

Finally the traumatology of sport and appropriate treatment methods are dealt with systematically, if rather briefly.

I feel this book is useful for the market at which it is aimed, i.e. the French medical student or coach/trainer who needs a wide introduction to the whole field of sport and medicine. Those needing more detailed advice regarding management of injuries may however be disappointed.

T. C. Franklin