

CORRESPONDENCE

Brookhouse Way,
The Green,
Cheadle,
Stoke-on-Trent

To the Editor:

Dear Sir,

I read with enthusiasm the paper written by Dr. Sperryn and Miss Reston "An evaluation of orthosis" in the December issue of BJSM volume 17.

As Director of the largest Orthotic Fabricating Laboratory in the UK I welcome what I believe to be the first statistical paper written upon the values of functional orthosis in the control of mechanical injuries to the lower limbs. However, I must take issue with the authors in leading the reader to believe that a commercially produced device costs £90.00. What I am sure Messrs. Sperryn and Reston wish to imply is that a diagnosis, taking of a neutral position plaster of paris cast and contingency follow up visits plus the cost of an orthosis are what contribute to such a fee not just the fabrication of device which really only costs approximately £30.00.

Furthermore, the phrase "commercial companies are exploiting the field" are ill chosen words, Langer alone has contributed large sums to the cause of furtherance of education to the British Practitioner and as such we do not feel we are exploiting anyone. Nonetheless Dr. Sperryn we commend your contribution in endorsing the values of a well fabricated orthotic device.

Yours faithfully,

A. P. BARCROFT
Managing Director
Langer Biomechanics Group UK

 BOOK REVIEW

Title: ARTHROSCOPY: DIAGNOSTIC AND SURGICAL PRACTICE
Author: S. Ward Casscells
Publisher: Lea & Febiger
Price: \$44.00 192 pages

This is a well written and illustrated book published by Lea and Febiger. Overall the book does adhere to the sub-title; and is very valuable in describing diagnostic and surgical arthroscopic practices. The quality and experience of the various distinguished contributors is very evident and for this reason the book is a valuable addition.

I particularly liked the chapters on arthroscopy of joints other than the knee; and look forward to a new personal venture into this area. The use of the operating arthroscope, evolved from the original style of instruments developed by O'Connor, was also very instructive and there do seem to be several important advantages, not least of which is the avoidance of instrument overcrowding.

With regard to the latter problem, Patel's para patellar proximal approach seems very apposite. There was also an interesting final brief chapter on the possible applications of the laser to arthroscopic surgery.

There were several detracting features. The quality of the photographs both black and white, and coloured was not always of the highest quality and certain group blocks of black and white photographs were very difficult to follow (page 169) and really required accompanying clear line diagrams for clarification. In addition, I cannot yet accept the postero-medial incision of the extent to demonstrate posterior part of the medial meniscus as a preliminary to meniscal suture, as shown on page 177, cannot avoid damage to the important postero-medial stabilising structures. I would advise caution by those not absolutely familiar with the full detail of relevant anatomy.

M. L. Harding, MS, FRCS