

I particularly like the way the authors summarise the clinical significance of each condition at the end of each legend; their natural course, treatment, and prognosis are highlighted concisely. This should be helpful to the beginner, who might find it difficult to find this information from the voluminous standard paediatric texts.

This book should make a useful and convenient complimentary addition to standard textbooks. It should also be a useful learning aid to medical students and

paediatric trainees preparing for examinations. The marked price of HK\$120 seems reasonable, given the high production cost involved in printing the photographs.

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Info-Med orthopaedics, volumes 1 and 2

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Orthopaedics is an expanding specialty, as reflected by the growing number of subspecialties, and journals and books on the subject. To obtain, and keep up-to-date with, the most current information is becoming a real challenge. The Info-Med Orthopaedics Series attempts to bridge the gap for busy physicians so that they can keep up with the most important recent developments that are related to orthopaedic practice. To balance the fragmentation due to subspecialisation, the editors have tried to create a quick, wide-ranging reference that covers all the major areas in this specialty.

In volume I, there are sections covering general reconstruction in the adult, and paediatric orthopaedics. They are collections of abstracts that present the current views about subjects such as paediatric hip pathology and management, and adult knee reconstruction. The sections on hand surgery and sports medicine occupy a significant position, and rightly so, since they correspond to fast-developing areas of orthopaedics.

As mentioned in the book's editorial introduction, the Info-Med Orthopaedics Series would like to serve as yearbooks for Asian orthopaedic surgeons. The section on Asian papers in volume I is certainly worth reading. The selected abstracts represent contributions from Asian surgeons in all aspects of the field. A significant number of the abstracts, however, are taken from regional and national journals that are not readily accessible.

In volume II, the quality and quantity seem somewhat improved, through the contributions from the

international and regional advisors, and from the Board of Editors. Once again, all the major subspecialties are included in this volume, and the abstracts reflect the most recent advancements in the field.

The 'Adult Reconstruction' section has as its main theme some experiences and developments in the topic of joint replacement. This seems apt, since joint replacement is becoming an increasingly common problem in an ageing population.

Following the style of volume I, the sections that deal with hand surgery and sports medicine occupy a significant portion of volume II; this is also true for the sections on trauma and paediatric orthopaedics. There is a chapter well-worth reading that is devoted to basic research; it provides readers with information about the latest advancements in areas such as bone healing, biomechanics, nerve physiology and healing, prostheses, and infection. It also helps to introduce to the profession a renewed stimulus and interest in basic research.

In both volumes, the abstracts have come from a large number of reference journals and have been carefully selected by the book's Board of Editors. One has to comment that the titles of the abstracts are absent in the contents pages; however, the subject index was useful and will serve the same function as a title index for searching for particular topics. The abstracts are presented in a clear summary format that can be easily understood.

In order to facilitate discussion, comments—both

international and from the Editorial Board—have been included for reference. In an era where the volume of information available seems increasingly overwhelming, the Info-Med orthopaedic series fulfills the need for a quick and useful reference guide for practising orthopaedic surgeons as well as trainees.

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