
This is the first book in a Postgraduate Paediatrics Series that aims to present works of interest and value to all concerned with paediatric work. It is based on the author’s experience as Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon to The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, during the past 15 years, and reflects the considerable changes that have taken place in the management of orthopaedic disease in children in recent years.

As the author states in his Preface, ‘the book was originally intended as a guide to orthopaedic surgery for paediatricians but it has developed rather differently and in its final form will, I hope, be of value to both orthopaedic surgeons and paediatricians.’ Its ideal place is undoubtedly among the books of a surgical trainee Registrar who is gaining his first experience in orthopaedic surgery. For him, the book is of proper size and content to bridge a gap between what he needs to know as a student and what he will need to know if he makes orthopaedic surgery his career. Paediatricians in training will also benefit from understanding of orthopaedic attitudes to disease and deformity that may present in both fields. Though not primarily a book for students, it could well be recommended as additional optional reading for them.

The author’s style of writing is personal and sometimes anecdotal. In the main, the descriptions of disease and deformities are brief, clear, and succinct, and advice about treatment is dogmatic and uncompromising. I was disappointed though, in the section on congenital dislocation of the hip in which the author has particular experience and interest. This was the only section that I had to read three times to understand it fully. While I do not take exception to any of the management that he advises for the many different varieties of orthopaedic disease and disability in children, there were many conditions in which I looked in vain for the reasons why the treatment was advised and for the general result that might be expected.

The book is comprehensively illustrated but the reproduction of radiographs, of which there are many, is universally poor. In some the vital portion of the radiograph is completely invisible. The references at the end of each chapter are representative and useful, though some may disapprove of the abbreviated titles.

The relatively high price of this short book reflects the rise in printing and publishing costs of all new books, but those for whom it is intended will appreciate its value as an important contribution to their learning and understanding of the subject.


These two books are in some ways complementary, the first having been written for medical staff and the second primarily for senior nursing staff. Both have chapters on the design and running of an intensive care unit which would be useful to anyone planning such a department.

In the first volume a chapter is devoted to the relevant basic physiology; though this is fairly well summarized, it is not easy reading, and some of it would be quite hard to follow unless the reader already had a sound grasp of the subject. There are good chapters on the management of circulatory failure and on pre- and postoperative care which should be extremely helpful to house officers. A section on diseases of the lung is rather uninspired and disappointingly brief on the management of status asthmaticus. Two excellent chapters are devoted to the newborn, one on physiology, and the other on practical care; these include much useful and recent information culled from many different sources. There is a short chapter on nursing aspects, and finally one on techniques, including the principles of electronic monitoring.

This book should be of great value to all who have to care for the critically ill child. It is a mine of quite recent information that is not always readily available elsewhere. References are given at the end of each chapter.

The second volume is based on lectures given during a course on intensive therapy at the United Birmingham Hospitals. Because it is written for both senior nurses and junior medical staff, it sometimes lacks balance in the amount of detail given. There are good sections on fluid and electrolyte problems, including a practical guide to ‘intravenous alimentation’. Methods for monitoring patients are described, also some details are given of several types of respirator. There are many valuable suggestions in the sections on postoperative care and also those devoted to cardiovascular and renal problems. There is a brief chapter on special care in the neonate. This book deserves a place on the shelves of an intensive care unit. Some parts of it should stimulate the intelligent and interested nurse and house officers will find some extremely helpful hints in the management of their patients.