

Book Reviews

ENDOLARYNGEAL SURGERY

Bruce Benjamin,
Martin Dunitz Ltd, 1998.
ISBN 1 85317 3231. Price: £99.50. pp 374.

Endolaryngeal Surgery by Benjamin is a single authored book dedicated to the management of laryngeal pathology. Professor Benjamin is an international authority in the area of laryngeal disorders, both in children and adults. This book is a distillation of his approach. It is beautifully illustrated with over 450 photographs and drawings. It is also superbly organized. The book is divided into sections on clinical evaluation, anaesthesia and laryngoscopy, conditions seen in children and adults, benign diseases and disorders only found in adults, laryngeal neoplasia, congenital abnormalities and inflammatory airway obstruction.

At the beginning of each chapter, an outline is presented and then meticulously adhered to. Throughout the text of each chapter, synopses are given in a highlighted and outlined fashion clearly identifying areas of particular importance. Diagrammatic flow charts and copious photographs are used to great effect. These allow the reader to hone in on critical issues. Each chapter offers the type of information, in a compelling fashion, that the surgeon or student of the problem might wish for.

Overall the book is an excellent addition to the armamentarium of any surgeon dealing with laryngo-tracheal pathology in children or adults. It is highly recommended.

JOHN RUBIN

AUDIOLOGISTS' DESK REFERENCE VOL II AUDIOLOGIC MANAGEMENT, REHABILITATION AND TERMINOLOGY

H. Gustav Mueller and James W. Hall,
Singular Publishing Group Inc. 1998.
ISBN 1 565493 711 2. Price: £54.00. pp 1006.

The initial response on receiving this book for review was a groan, not just on lifting its 1.6 kg but also on reading a title of seemingly limited interest to a surgical enthusiast. Most otologists delude ourselves that ours is a hands-on-discipline. In practice most of the week is spent in clinics whilst the little operative work is snatched by trainees. A revision in audiologic management and rehabilitation is no harm.

This is the second substantial volume of a book which admits to being designed for reference only and indeed its format favours a skimming approach. It is packed with graphs, tables, short, often humorous, anecdotes and tips with bold headlines and highlights. The first third of the book covers hearing aid provision and the middle (and best) third the management of tinnitus and

cochlear implantation. The final third concentrates on US, and indeed largely private, practice and will be of little relevance to the UK reader.

This book will have great appeal in the US but may not cross the Atlantic so well. The humour and idiosyncrasies of the contents are best appreciated by those familiar with the characters of North American audiology (who do seem to be a lively bunch) and with the profusion of acronyms which the authors freely scorn. It is unclear why seven pages of small print are devoted to the admittedly fascinating life story of Davy Crockett for example.

In a book designed for easy reference the lack of an index is an unfortunate omission. There is much in this book that justifies its place in an audiology department once the reader adjusts to the style.

LIAM FLOOD

ATLAS ON THE SURGICAL ANATOMY OF LARYNGEAL CANCER

John A. Kirchner, M.D.,
Singular Publishing Group Inc. 1998.
ISBN 1 56593 776 7. Price: £118.00. pp 160.

This Atlas sets out to illustrate the growth and spread of laryngeal and hypopharyngeal cancer derived from whole organ surgical specimens and whole organ sections.

The Atlas is divided into separate chapters for each sub-site within the larynx and hypopharynx and then sets out by means of photographs and photo-micrographs of cancers within each sub-site to demonstrate growth and spread within the larynx. Each of the five chapters contains a short description of patterns of spread within each sub-site and then is lavishly illustrated with numerous surgical specimens. The quality of the illustrations is superb and the sections are well orientated by means of an associated line diagram. The legend to each plate accurately describes the site and extent of the tumour and the choice of the specimens has been made to illustrate Dr Kirchner's wealth of experience in dealing with laryngeal cancer.

For the practising head and neck surgical oncologist the Atlas illustrates a number of very useful points, particularly regarding the difficulties in accurately assessing tumours by direct laryngoscopy. It is unfortunate that many of the specimens were obtained before current endoscopic examination using angled telescopes was available, as the inclusion of pre-operative endoscopic photographs of the same tumours would have illustrated this point to great effect.

The cases selected also eloquently illustrate the difficulties in assessing submucosal spread of tumour, particularly following radical radiotherapy. The organ sections illustrate the pattern of framework invasion and these two factors should be understood by any