Book Reviews


This dissection manual encompasses all the dissection necessary for many modern abbreviated courses of anatomy in medicine or dentistry. For each part of the body it presents osteology and surface anatomy in text and colour photographs, followed by instructions for the dissection of the area in question. The book then describes its anatomy, accompanied by photographs of dissections and explanatory diagrams. The majority of the diagrams come from Rogers’ Textbook of Anatomy which was completed by Sam Jacob for the late Professor Rogers. There are also occasional radiographs.

The photographs of dissection are variable in quality, both in terms of the dissection and the photography. The dissector seems to have been unable to adequately demonstrate structures in some areas such as the orbit and larynx, whilst in others (e.g. interior of the knee joint and the heart) the definition of different structures is good. This may be a matter of choice of cadaver, as in some specimens the contrast in colour between tissues is good. The photographer has succeeded in displaying depth in the dissections in some pictures, but sadly others are unexpectedly flat. The photographs of bones and surface anatomy are generally good.

Whilst the principle of mixing so many different types of illustration makes the book easy on the eye, I suspect that some students will find it difficult to relate structures seen in photographs of dissections to those seen in diagrams, especially as they rarely present the same view. The dissecting instructions are contained in pale blue boxes whilst clinical comments are in a grey background, thus making it easy to find the required element. The instructions require a knowledge of anatomy in order to perform the dissection, but with that knowledge are clear and concise.

The book opens with an introduction in which basic terminology is explained, followed by 3 paragraphs only on ‘how to dissect’. I would have expected more help with dissecting techniques and, as the manual is bound as a paperback and is made of ordinary paper, I fear it will not survive very long in the dissecting room environment.

In general I feel that the number of dissection photographs is too small and many students will consider that they need another more comprehensive atlas as well. In conclusion this book is like the curate’s egg—parts of it are excellent, but I fear that some students will think that it is the only book they need, and will not purchase any other textbook or atlas, and ultimately find that it needs to be supplemented in order to meet course or exam requirements.

I. WHITMORE


This book is a compilation of about 60 oral and 400 poster presentations made at the 4th International Meeting on the Biology of Nitric Oxide, held in Amelia Island, Florida, in September 1995. It encompasses a large part of the current interest in nitric oxide.

The book is divided into sections according to subject classifications of biochemistry, physiology, pharmacology, chemistry, immunology ‘hot topics’, therapy and molecular biology. Approximately half the entries are in the biochemistry or physiology sections, followed by pharmacology and oral presentations. The sections devoted to chemistry, therapy and ‘hot topics’ each occupy less than 10% of the book. The section labelled ‘molecular biology’ was small (containing only 6 articles) although this area had other entries in the oral section.

As is usual with this type of publication, different typefaces were used by the various contributors. A standard format would have improved the presentation. Despite this minor irritation, many of the articles are of a high standard, some by well known names in their fields. The range of interests covered should mean that people working in a research area involving the biochemistry, physiology or pharmacology of nitric oxide would find this book a useful addition to their library.

M. CLEETER