BOOK REVIEW

Occupational Hand and Upper Extremity Injuries and Diseases, edited by Morton L Kasdan (1991). Henley and Belfus, 210 S 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107, USA. 580 pages. US\$85.

As the title suggests, this book deals with problems commonly seen by the hand surgeon. It is a truly multidisciplinary text, consisting of 40 chapters written by some 67 expert authors ranging from MDs and PhDs to nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and lawyers. Topics discussed include motivation, prevention, etiology, first aid, legal aspects and ergonomics, as well as hand anatomy and various hand injuries.

The publication is timely because of the recent interest in such occupational upper extremity problems as cumulative trauma disorders, reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD), carpal tunnel syndrome and tendonitis, to mention only a few.

From the surgeon's point of view, I found some chapters very complete and informative, especially chapters dealing with chemical injuries and 'tendonitis'. The chapters on motivation, psychological evaluation, prevention, etiologies and ergonomics were also informative and interesting.

The chapters dealing with common hand injuries are generally directed to non-hand surgeons, and would be useful to practitioners and students of occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

In other areas, though, the treatment of the subject matter seemed cursory. A mere half-page was devoted to RSD, and the chapter on therapy and rehabilitation by hand therapists is superficial.

Some topics displayed the book's US origins – for example, the sections dealing with the Worker's Compensation Board and legal issues are, generally, US-specific.

Despite these faults, however, I would recommend this book highly to therapists and students dealing with hand injuries, as well as to hand surgeons who are looking for interesting reading about topics generally not covered in standard hand surgery texts.

Morton L Kasdan has done a commendable job in compiling an interesting variety of topics dealing with occupational upper extremity problems.

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