
This small book contains in its eighty pages one of the best descriptions of the vasculature of the long bones based on the study of the vessels of the rabbit, guinea-pig and rat. Methods of arterial injection, including those of plastic material (Vinylite), are described, and the work is based on the analysis of this injected material, either directly or after the previous suppression of one or other of the three sources of blood to the bone. The author lays due emphasis on the part that the periosteal circulation plays in supplying the compact bone of the shaft and explains that no vessels appear to cross the epiphyseal cartilage. He emphasises the existence of subchondral vessels and exhibits a nice illustration. He stresses the interest of this finding but does not seem to be acquainted with the work of Franceschini or of the Swedish School of Ingelmark and Holmdahl who have also found this close relationship between vessels and articular cartilage. A good description of the venous system in bone is given, but the lack of microradiography impedes the author from being as informative in describing the capillary plexus. No sinusoids appear to have been seen with the methods adopted, as there is no description of these most important structures. In spite of these criticisms and a slightly loose bibliographic section this may be considered the work which contains in the smallest number of pages the greatest available information on the circulation in the long bones.—J. Trueta.


This monograph in the American Lectures series is an expansion of the author’s lectures as Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons. The introduction, which pays tribute to Codman’s work, is followed by a well and profusely illustrated chapter on the anatomy of the shoulder joint and its surrounding muscles.

The author has devised and described an inferior approach to the shoulder through the axilla. The rotator cuff is defined as the four muscles inserted into the humeral tuberosities and their conjoined tendons. The functions of this structure are controversial and some will disagree with the views put forward here. The degenerative changes that occur in the tendons and their insertion are well described and illustrated, and follow previous observations. The description of the clinical signs of rotator cuff tears and the method of examination to elicit them is excellent and might well be summarised in students’ surgical text-books, which usually completely ignore this fairly common and disabling condition. The author believes that most tears requiring operative repair, both acute and chronic, can be diagnosed on clinical grounds alone, but is reluctantly prepared to wait in doubtful cases. He takes Codman’s as opposed to McLaughlin’s view and considers that delay prejudices the result of operation. The operative procedures in various types of tendon tear are well described. He gives short histories of his cases, and a satisfactory method of assessing results, and finds that his resemble McLaughlin’s. The commonest disability after successful repair is a loss of power up to 30 per cent. The results of operation are better in acute cases than chronic ones, but, even in these, are much better than the results of conservative treatment. This is a valuable contribution to the literature of shoulder injuries and should be read by all who are, or ought to be, interested in the subject.—V. H. Ellis.


This monograph is another of the valuable supplements published from time to time by the various Acta Scandinavica. It gives a very complete account of the progressive muscular dystrophies, with a critical review of the literature of these puzzling diseases and with original observations based on 117 cases collected by the writer. Though mainly of interest to the neurologists and to the specialists in human genetics, this publication has its importance for the orthopaedic surgeon, who will find it a valuable reference book on diseases that he must meet now and then.—D. Ll. Griffiths.

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