BOOK REVIEW

Apley’s System of Orthopaedics and Fractures (9th Edition)

Louis Solomon, David Warwick and Selvadurai Nayagam

This is the ninth edition of a classic which was first published in 1959. Solomon, Warwick and Nayagam as co-editors and authors have done an excellent job in revising, updating and maintaining the same format making this an easy to read book, consistent with the Apley style.

In addition, there are contributions from 24 other authors mainly from the United Kingdom, India, Greece, Switzerland and South Africa.

The book is divided into three sections i.e. general orthopaedics, regional orthopaedics, fractures and joint injuries. Apley’s textbook has always emphasised clinical features and the principles of treatment and this edition is no different.

The chapter on orthopaedic operations now includes the principles of osteotomy and elastic nailing for paediatric fractures. The management of major injuries is described comprehensively as trauma is a major component of orthopaedic surgery. In addition to urgent debridement and fracture stabilisation, antibiotics for not more than 72 hours and early definitive wound cover in collaboration with plastic surgery is advocated in the treatment of open fractures. Botulinum toxin and single-event multi-level surgery is included in the treatment of cerebral palsy. The epilogue on global orthopaedics is a reminder that in many poorer countries of the world, the disease presentation and treatment available are different. Overall this is an excellent textbook with over 1000 illustrations. My only critique is of the poor quality of some of the photographs and radiographs.

I highly recommend Apley’s System of Orthopaedics and Fractures as a textbook for undergraduates and junior orthopaedic trainees.

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