

abdominal chapter, might have been better placed with the alternative uses for fibre-optics since the organisation, maintenance of instruments and training of staff are common to all examinations.

Much of the information in "Out-patient Surgery" is of considerable value but there seems to be a surprising lack of co-ordination between the multiplicity of contributors. Perhaps this could have been avoided by a strong editorial policy, directing the author of each chapter as to the scope and detail required from this section so as to obtain a more balanced text. I gained the impression that the content could well be redrafted into two separate volumes; the first covering the Accident and Emergency surgeon and the second dealing with non-emergency conditions. However, apart from these criticisms the text is well presented, there is clarity and continuity in most of the art work and I could find only two printing errors. The volume contains many helpful and refreshingly honest comments on a variety of topics with which many experienced surgeons will agree. At £28.75 it is an impressive book to display but the reader must judge for himself which and whose bookshelf is the most appropriate.

R. F. RINTOUL

THE TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT: A BIOLOGICAL BASIS FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE. By BERNARD G. SARNAT and DANIEL M. LASKIN. Third Edition. Pp. xviii + 486, with 193 illustrations. (Springfield: Illinois. Charles C. Thomas, 1980). Price \$61.00.

The temporomandibular joint and the sequelae of its dysfunction has long taken up more time in research, clinical assessment and treatment than almost any other aspect of craniofacial pathology, and yet to some extent remains an enigma. This book now just published in its much extended third edition contributes much towards marshalling the facts, presenting considerable research and assessing our current knowledge of the joint.

The editors Bernard Sarnat and Daniel Laskin have assembled an international panel of distinguished contributors and represents the best of a multi-disciplinary team approach to the subject.

The book follows the logical sequence of first considering the basic sciences in relation to the temporomandibular joint and for the first ten chapters (half the contents) discusses embryology, comparative and functional anatomy together with congenital malformations and pathology in detail.

Part II of the book deals with diagnosis and treatment in clinical practice. There are chapters on the examination, radiology of the joint and myofascial pain dysfunction (M.P.D.) syndrome considered from aetiological, psychological and non-surgical treatment aspects. The section on the differential diagnosis of craniofacial-cervical pain by Sanford Block is by its nature a small text book in its own right!

Surgical considerations are comprehensively covered by the authors themselves but certain questions do arise. The diagram of surgical approaches to the joint on page 424 shows a rather more limited incision than is usual in British practice. And in relation to recurrent dislocation it was disappointing not to see reference to the very effective and simple Dautrey procedure as a means of treatment of this condition.

The lay-out of the text is clear and well presented with ample references. An indication of chapter content at the beginning and a concise summary at the end is helpful, as are the chapter cross-references throughout.

One regrets the mild castigation of Costen for his overkill on symptoms attributed to overclosure. He, after all, rekindled interest in the condition and has led to much research and clinical investigation which, in the end, is the *raison d'être* of this most valuable and authoritative book.

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Consultant Surgeon, Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny. Surgical Tutor, Royal College of Surgeons of England. Honorary Clinical Teacher, Welsh National School of Medicine. The late Eric L. Farquharson was a pioneer of out-patient surgery in Edinburgh and Mr. Rintoul, who was formerly a Clinical Tutor in the University of Edinburgh, will be known to many of our readers as Editor of the Sixth Edition of Farquharson's Textbook of Operative Surgery published in 1978 by Churchill Livingstone.