

## Book reviews

### *Disorders of bone and mineral metabolism*

Fredric L. Coe & Murray J. Favus (Eds.), 1118 pages, Raven Press Ltd, New York, 1992  
ISBN 0-88167-749-3

The increasing knowledge of bone and mineral metabolism during the last decades has led to the release of this book full of new data and expert analysis. In the preface of the book a tribute is paid to Metabolic Ward 4 of the Massachusetts General Hospital where Fuller Albright and Edward C. Reifstein worked and presented "the parathyroid glands and metabolic bone disease" in 1948.

The book is a large review of all major advances in science—mainly basic science. 71 authors have contributed, 6 from outside the US. The book covers normal mineral metabolism, bone structure and biology, mineral metabolism during the human life cycle, introduction to clinical mineral disorders, disorders of serum mineral levels, disorders of bone formation and disorders of bone.

One of the more interesting chapters concerns bone structure and biology which covers both functions of bone—calcium storage and structural support. It explains the concepts, such as intramembranous and endochondral ossification as well as the difference between growth, modelling and remodelling of the skeleton. Remodelling events—resorption of old bone and formation of new on the microscopic level—starts in the skeleton in less than 10-second-intervals. If remodelling ceases to function, mechanical failure will occur within 2 years (Frost). This chapter also covers the rapidly increasing knowledge of the macromolecular biology of bone.

In another chapter, methods are presented, diagnostic roentgen, radionuclide scintimetry and the variety of bone mineral measurement techniques; single photon absorptiometry, dual photon absorptiometry and quantitative computer tomography. The clinical use of bone biopsy is also discussed in an easily understandable way.

The 257-page chapter *Disorders of Bone* is an update on primary osteoporosis by Robert Lindsay and Felicia Cosman which covers the literature on primary osteoporosis—an easily readable presentation with several tables. The chapter also covers various secondary forms of osteoporosis as well as heredity, metabolic and neoplastic skeletal disorders. The chapter on primary, cystic and neoplastic disorders of bone is short and comprehensive and offers information on most bone tumors. However, I miss chapters on fracture healing and bone induction.

Most chapters, but not all, have a summary and tables for easy understanding. Who needs such an extensive book on bone and mineral metabolism? Parts could be included in instructional courses for orthopedic surgeons. The book could serve as a reference or encyclopedia in larger departments. The reference list is extensive and up-to-date.

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### *Imaging of orthopedic trauma*

Thomas H Berquist (editor), 928 pages, Raven Press Ltd, New York, 1991  
ISBN 0-88167-805-8

Radiology is essential to the orthopedic surgeon for the diagnosis and treatment of trauma, and it is the duty of the radiologist to provide adequate films. It is also as important for the radiologist to be familiar with orthopedic problems, as it is for the orthopedic surgeon to

know about the possibilities and limitations of different radiological methods.

This product of the Mayo Clinic is a valuable contribution with correlated information on clinical and radiological findings in adult orthopedic trauma and