

shelves. The *Handbook of Sports Medicine* is well organized, readable, and presents clear, useful information on sports medicine topics. Its strengths are the breadth of information presented in a reasonable number of pages and the organization by undifferentiated symptoms. Its weaknesses include an insufficient number of illustrations and radiographs and an unevenness in the depth of information presented from chapter to chapter. Practicing physicians, residents, and students will find this book a useful addition to their library.

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Pediatric Orthopaedics in Primary Care. By Vernon T. Tolo and Beverly Wood. 365 pp., illustrated. Baltimore, Williams & Wilkins, 1993. \$59. ISBN 0-683-08330-9.

As a primary care provider for children, I welcomed the opportunity to review this book. The authors, an orthopedic surgeon and a radiologist, contend that musculoskeletal abnormalities account for 20 percent of office visits to primary care physicians. Many of these encounters are associated with a degree of uncertainty about how aggressively to pursue the work-up and when to refer to a specialist, so any guide to assist in this process is potentially a welcome aid. The stated purpose of the book is to serve as a quick reference for the office or emergency department to help the primary care physician arrive at the correct diagnosis, with emphasis on sports injuries in the growing child.

Nearly two-thirds of the text is devoted to a region-by-region anatomical account of common disorders. Each section describes normal anatomy, key points in

history and physical examination, and radiographic findings and then describes most of the frequently encountered conditions for that area. The text is supplemented by pen-and-ink drawings of good quality to illustrate normal and abnormal anatomy and by excellent radiographic examples of pathologic conditions. The additional sections address specific problems, such as limp, neuromuscular disease, arthritis, tumors, child abuse, and torsional and angular deformities.

The strength of this book is in the concise yet comprehensive manner in which it covers the breadth of pediatric orthopedic conditions. What I gained from reading it is a much better understanding of a variety of problems, many of which I have dealt with for years. It does succeed as an aid to better diagnosis. What one should not expect from this book is a "how to do it" approach to treatment. The proper therapy for the various conditions is included, but the reader will be helped by knowing how to apply those skills already mastered, not by reading how to set a fracture or reduce a dislocated joint. The stated intent was to include treatments that are appropriately administered by primary care providers; it will still be necessary to refer more complicated problems to an orthopedist.

In summary, the book is well organized, presented in a readable style, clearly illustrated, and reasonably thorough, given the stated purpose and limitations noted above. In addition, each section contains a list of selected references as a guide to further study. Both students and practitioners who deal with the musculoskeletal problems of childhood will find this a useful source of information.

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