BOOK REVIEW

Key Anatomy for Radiology

S. WESTACOTT & J. R. W. HALL

Heinemann Medical Publications, London, 1989. 232 pp. £17.50

This new book fills a gap in the armoury available to the FRCR1 candidate. The authors having recently sat the exam themselves, recognized the need for a textbook which deals in a clear and concise manner with basic anatomy as it relates to diagnostic radiology. They have done so successfully with this compact, moderately priced paperback.

The book is specifically aimed at the FRCR student, with clearly annotated line diagrams of plain radiographs, CT sections and standard anatomical dissections. These are readily reproducible and while they have been kept simple and uncluttered, they have lost none of the accuracy of more detailed diagrams. Each diagram relates to a paragraph of text, which are mostly of sufficient length to answer essay paper questions. The principle relations are given in list form. The book also gives, again in the form of a check-list, the relevant useful methods of imaging each structure.

There are some criticisms, however. Several of the diagrams are found distant to the related text, rather than being on opposite pages which would be ideal. The text on the vascular system is in parts lacking in detail. The diagram of the coronary arteries uses the anatomical frontal view rather than the oblique views used in radiology. I feel that a diagram of the blood supply to the spinal cord could be very useful. Again, the paranasal sinuses are not dealt with in adequate detail.

These are not major quibbles however. Over all this is a well written book with a clear aim, and is ideal for use in the weeks before the FRCR exam after a good grounding in anatomy has been obtained from larger books. Radiographers and candidates for the MRCPII will, particularly in the assessment of plain films, find good use for this book.

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