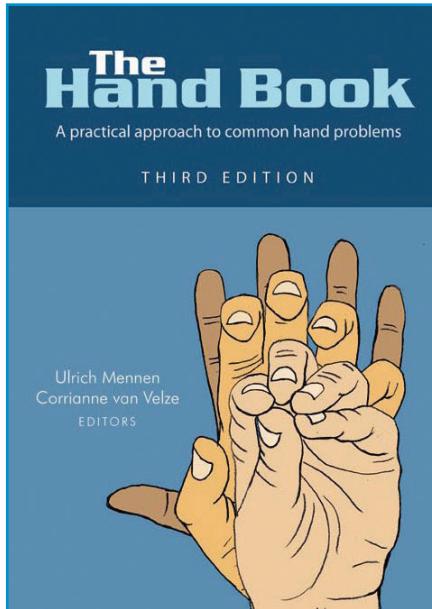


BOOK REVIEW

The Hand Book – A practical approach to common hand problems. Third Edition Editors: U Mennen and C van Velze



I was still a junior registrar when I bought my first edition of *The Hand Book* in 1988 and found it extremely helpful during my training as orthopaedic surgeon. I used the same *Hand Book* during my years in private practice until I could afford *Green's Operative Hand Surgery*. I bought the third edition 20 years later and still appreciate its practical and compact style.

The lovely thing about this book is that it is just what the title states: A practical approach to common hand problems. The first chapters lay a good foundation on the structural and functional anatomy of the hand and there is an excellent chapter on the clinical examination of the hand. Chapters on the diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of various injuries, tendon transfers and infections follow. The next chapters are a concise version on nerve compression, tumours, arthritis, congenital abnormalities and the wrist in an easy-to-read format. The only chapter that is not sufficient for the MMed final examinations is the chapter on the shoulder and elbow, but this is still appropriate for undergraduate training. The treatment sections on rehabilitation with all the conservative treatment modalities including splinting are a winner. The photographs of the various splints are an improvement on the first edition's drawings. It would have been nice to have colour photographs but it does not affect the overall quality and practicality of the book.

The Hand Book is compact and contains a vast amount of relevant and practical knowledge for its size and as such it is the ideal textbook and a must for orthopaedic registrars and undergraduate students. General practitioners will be able to use this text book as a quick reference for the management of the common hand problems that they will encounter in practice. Both orthopaedic and plastic surgeons will be able to benefit from this text book.

Reviewer: Dr JG Myburgh
Head: Upper Limb Unit
Pretoria Academic Hospital
University of Pretoria