

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of: *Developmental Juvenile Osteology*

REFERENCE: Scheuer L, Black S. Illustrations by Christie A. *Developmental juvenile osteology*. Academic Press, London, UK, and San Diego, CA, 2000, 587 pp., \$159.95.

It is hard to imagine that anyone can or will produce a more comprehensive or useful treatment of juvenile osteology than the one presented in this book. It is lengthy, heavy and expensive, but every page is full of information that will be useful to anyone engaged in skeletal research and teaching. For forensic anthropologists and bioarchaeologists confronted with the skeletal remains of children, it will be the definitive reference for years to come. Here is why. The first four chapters outline the general features of skeletal development, bone development, and embryology. The following seven chapters deal with anatomical regions: head, neck and dentition; vertebral column; thorax; the pectoral girdle; upper limb; pelvic girdle; and lower limb. Each chapter has a detailed anatomical and embryological description, practical notes about siding and possible sources of confusion in identification, measurements by age and a morphological summary.

Literature is extensively reviewed. Of the 587 pages, 87 are required to contain the references. The authors specifically make no apology for the lengthy reference list, nor should they. It provides ready access to the extensive literature on skeletal growth and development and will save a lot of time in literature searches.

The book is obviously not priced or configured in such a way that many would find it useful as a text. It will serve most effec-

tively as a reference in the laboratory. If you want measurements of bones by age, you will find them in tabular form. If you want timing of ossification center appearance and fusion of epiphyses, you will find it. Growth data for individual elements of the skull are presented, including dental development and tooth eruption schedules. Those interested in nonmetric trait variation will find information about when and why many of these features develop. All elements are lavishly illustrated with high quality drawings rather than photographs. In short, about anything one needs is to be found between these covers.

Inevitably, the metric and developmental data presented are heavily weighted toward European or American populations, because these are the samples most likely to be documented as to age and sex. It is necessary to rely heavily on the Fazekas and Kosa's fetal osteology data, and the Denver and Fels radiographic studies for children's bone lengths. This is something of a limitation for those involved in the study of nonwestern or archaeological samples, however, unavoidable. There is an appendix (Appendix 3) containing references to metrics from archaeological material. It holds a scant 25 references, illustrating the general neglect of children's skeletons in bioarchaeological analyses. One hopes that in addition to serving as a general reference work for forensic anthropologists and bioarchaeologists, this book will also serve to stimulate more research into this fascinating topic.

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