



Skeleton: Our body's framework; Making Life: How we reproduce and grow

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Editorial Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

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The microscope plays a surprisingly modest part in the content of these two looks at bits of human biology. Certainly some of the photomicrography is remarkable - check the cross section of a testicle in **Making Life** - but the most useful information comes from the discussion of parts unmagnified. Advised by R.N. Villar of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Johnson shows us bone structure and takes us through the main constituents of the skeleton from top to toe before going on to joints and movement. Joint types are particularly well shown, although I do not agree with her implication that a very tight grip is needed for bicycle handlebars - in fact it is positively unhelpful and very tiring - on yer bike Jinny and see for yourself!

Walker - with the help of Jane MacDougall MRCOG and Addenbrooke's again - makes more telling use of the microscope; eggs and sperms are microscopic things after all. The approach here is what Humphrey Lyttelton would call 'mainly traditional' - his flip side of that recording was called 'Oh Dad!' so it is appropriate that the spread on making sperm is particularly well done. The stages of labour - often condensed in such books - are also well explained before we glance at genetics, growth and the ageing process. Handsome clear illustrations distinguish these worthwhile additions to the human biology collection.

Running Order:

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