The first edition of Scott-Brown’s Otolaryngology consisted of 2 volumes, providing to English specialists the first postwar text for otolaryngology. It actually became ‘the bible’ for the first generation of FRCS candidates. Scientific and technical progress in otolaryngology was very important and developed rapidly. Within a generation’s time our previously rather limited surgical speciality had widened considerably and is now covering a vast field of interdisciplinary activities. But also the procedures being performed today in ENT departments can no longer be covered by the term of ear, nose and throat surgery. For those reasons it was inevitable that the former 2-volume edition had to expand and requires now 6 volumes. The first volume presents ample information about basic sciences, including some new technical developments such as magnetic resonance imaging and laser surgery. The second volume covers adult audiology, i.e. diagnostic, medical, therapeutic and rehabilitative aspects of hearing and balance disorders. For organizational convenience the pediatric audiology section has been included in volume 6 (Pediatric otorlaryngology). In the 3rd volume on otology diagnosis, medical and surgical treatment of ear diseases are presented, providing the reader with up-to-date
concise information. It may be considered the classical textbook on otology. The edition of the 4th volume covering rhinology has necessitated a complete alteration of the previous book because of many fundamental changes in rhinology over the 8 years since the last edition. Five new chapters appear – covering endoscopy of the nose and sinuses, rhinoma-nometry, mechanisms and treatment of allergy, sleep apnea and the orbit. On the other hand congenital deformities of the nose and foreign bodies have been transferred to volume 6 on Pediatric Otolaryngology. The 5th volume is dealing with laryngology and has also been updated, particularly the chapters on diagnosis and management of malignant head and neck tumors. The 6th volume is entirely on pediatric otolaryngology and the first comprehensive textbook in this field to be published in England since T.G. Wilson’s Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat in Children. The fact that pediatric otolaryngology merits a complete volume in a standard ORL textbook is a fitting tribute to the now established importance of this branch of our speciality. The editors have again assembled a wide range of current knowledge of otorhinolaryngology and its borderlands. They present it in 6 volumes, each of them well written and well illustrated. This textbook is an instructive, informative invaluable teaching and review source not only for students and specialists in otorhinolaryngology but also for physicians and surgeons working in the field of related specialities such as neurology, neurosurgery, ophthalmology and pediatrics. Summing up, the 5th edition of Scott-Brown’s Otolaryngology has maintained its exceptionally high scientific and didactic standard which has been built up by previous editors during the time of a generation.

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