

BOOK REVIEWS

BURNS, INCLUDING THERMAL INJURY. The Journal of the International Society for Burn Injuries. (Bristol: Wright.) Annual subscription £8.50.

It is difficult to decide whether there is a place for a super specialist journal and the new journal "Burns" must be in this category. Certainly as the first editorial makes clear, the burn problem is a multi-disciplinary subject and papers can be published in a great variety of places making ready reference difficult. Certainly to present both clinical and laboratory work together is an advantage and in the first two numbers a good balance has been achieved. On the other hand, the removal of many important papers from journals with a wider distribution may be a disadvantage, especially for those whose interest in the subject is less specialised but who still want to be conversant with recent work.

The international nature of this journal reflected in its editors and in its editorial committee should make it possible to present world-wide thinking in the field of burns provided the journal is supported. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the dominance of the United Kingdom and the United States so evident in these first editions will not become an established pattern. The standard set is, however, high and must be maintained. It would be helpful in a situation where both clinical and laboratory papers are included to show the qualifications of the authors.

An excellent feature of the second number was the list of articles published in other major journals during the first half of 1974.

One final question, why does a journal called "Burns" require a subtitle "Thermal Injury"?

A. SUTHERLAND

MANDIBULAR GROWTH AND REMODELLING PROCESSES AFTER CONDYLAR FRACTURE.

By KAI LUND. First Edition. Pp. 117, with 45 figures—illustrations. (Copenhagen: Acta Odontologica Scandinavica, Volume 32, Supplementum 64, 1974).

There has been a distinct lack of literature on the long-term effects of mandibular fractures. This short book sets out to investigate the effect of condylar neck fractures on growth. Cephalometric assessment over 2-5 years was undertaken on 38 patients during the growth period.

The conclusions drawn from this small study were somewhat unexpected. There was significantly greater growth on the fractured side and in some cases there was a relative overgrowth on the affected side. This compensatory growth appeared only before normal bone growth had ceased and was most marked during puberty. Compensatory growth was greater when the condylar head was in contact with the articular fossa; it was not significantly affected by the patient's sex, the level of the fracture or the degree of remodelling. Diminished or dysplastic growth occurred on the fractured side in about a quarter of the cases; no explanation was found for this.

Remodelling of the condylar head was more complete in the younger age groups; in the oldest age group incomplete remodelling always occurred. High level fractures remodelled better than low ones and, as expected, those only slightly displaced remodelled more completely than those grossly displaced. Serial radiographs showed a combination of appositional and resorptive activity, starting during bone healing and continuing for a variable period after union.

There is sometimes an unfortunate lack of clarity in the text due to poor translation. In spite of this, a careful study of this useful monograph will amply reward the reader. A larger and wider survey to include adults is indicated.

This book is clearly illustrated with line drawings and radiographs. It can be recommended to the plastic or oral surgeon interested in maxillo-facial injuries.

K. F. MOOS

LES MONOGRAPHIES DU GROUPE D'ETUDE DE LA MAIN, collection dirigée par R. TUBIANA. Par J. GOSSET et collaborateurs. (Paris 6: Expansion Scientifique Française.) Price: France 72.50.

This is a paperback from the G.E.M. collected by Raoul Tubiana, and produced by J. Gosset and his collaborators. They present a case for the need to provide good initial treatment for hand injuries, by a description of the more serious types of injury followed by the different methods of reconstruction, relating to the degree of tissue loss. The treatment of amputations is dealt with consecutively, from terminal tissue loss to total digital loss. The salvage of the remnants of function is described in the digital and the metacarpal hand.

The restoration of function following total digital loss can be provided by selective surgery, only if there is a clear understanding of normal function, and functional adaptation following injury. One of the problems of amputation is the painful neuroma and this has been given fair coverage.

Monsieur Gosset presents the case for pollicisation of the ring finger in thumb reconstruction.

This monograph emphasises the importance of dealing effectively with the injured hand, and describes the many aspects of reconstruction which demand the skill of the surgeon with experience in these problems.

S. HARRISON