

## BOOK REVIEWS

### RECONSTRUCTIVE MICROSURGERY AND HAND SURGERY

The October 1979 number of the *Annals of the Academy of Medicine in Singapore* is devoted entirely to papers on reconstructive microsurgery and hand surgery. The Editor of this volume is Dr R. N. H. Pho, Senior Lecturer and Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon to the University Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in that city. Of the 17 papers, no less than 10 come from Far Eastern Centres in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Japan and four from Singapore itself. The papers are so well written and so beautifully illustrated that any attempt to abstract them would be almost a criminal offence! It is a remarkable volume and should be on the shelves of any unit which is engaged in microsurgical work. The Publishers are The Academy of Medicine, 4A, College Road, Singapore.

MICHAEL N. TEMPEST

**REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION IN THE ORBITAL REGION. A PRACTICAL GUIDE.** By J. C. MUSTARDE. Second Edition 1980. Pp. 391+xiv with 445 illustrations. (Edinburgh, London, New York, Churchill Livingstone 1980.) Price £35.00.

The author of this book needs no introduction. His name is a household word (both written and spoken) in plastic surgical and ophthalmic circles all over the world. In the preface to the First Edition published in 1966 and re-emphasised in this volume, the author makes it quite clear that the text is essentially a "guide-book" based on one man's experience. Because of his unique experience in both plastic and ophthalmic surgery the volume has the consistent stamp of authority and wisdom that is so lacking in the torrent of multi-authored books and symposia that is now pouring across the Atlantic: books that read so often rather like "advertising copy" and makes one long for a Consumers' Association Guide to tell us which is the "Best Buy". The deliberate wording of the title stresses the point that the author is concerned with reconstruction and repair in the *orbital region*. This is no "Key-hole" guide to the orbit, as seen through the slit in an ophthalmic theatre towel. New material in this edition includes some of the recent advances in the treatment of involutionary ectropion, prosthesis displacement following enucleation of the eye, repair of the upper eyelid, displacement of the orbital walls and the treatment of facial palsy. Reference is made to the craniofacial procedures developed by Tessier and Converse which has done so much to stimulate a more radical approach to facial surgery.

The line drawings by Robin Callander are superb. As for the photographs, the list of "445 figures" belies the fact that there are some 1300 photographs in the book, sometimes 8 to a page. One wonders if some of these could not be omitted in future editions: some are repetitive and others, as on page 184, are too indistinct to be of any value. There are some unforgivable misprints of well known names: Blascowicz, Blascowics; Dieffenbach is always listed as Diffenbach; Tagliacocci and Khunt Symanowskie. In the list of references, the American journal *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* appears in three different versions: so too, does this Journal. To draw up a list of all the societies and journals that could legitimately use the initials B.J.P.S. could be almost as effective as counting sheep in the management of insomnia!

These minor blemishes must be corrected in the next Edition. In the meantime, we have an excellent book which will continue to hold its own as a Foundation text in the training of every plastic surgeon.

MICHAEL N. TEMPEST

**1979 YEAR BOOK OF PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY.** By FREDERICK J. MCCOY and others. Pp. 345 and 114 illustrations. (Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers Inc., 1979.) Price £27.

The Year Book series aims to provide "the most pertinent and valuable information from Journal articles published in the past year", according to the publishers blurb. The period actually covered is from January 1977 to May 1978.