

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.

The Editor and his five associates are a distinguished team who have assembled 239 abstracts (the blurb says 256!) from 52 Journals covering the full range of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgical topics. Their individual choice of what they consider the most important articles is necessarily personal and at times appears nepotistic. One-third of the articles come from "Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery": the majority from the American literature, nearly all from the English language Journals and very few from those not commonly available in hospital libraries.

Most abstracts are accompanied by editorial comment "to help you evaluate new techniques and to bring controversial topics into perspective". It must be coincidental that the first abstract (by Raymond O. Brauer) is of an article by Raymond O. Brauer and is followed by editorial comment from Raymond O. Brauer; another of whose articles is abstracted by another editor. Three of the editors do not consider their own writings to be among the "essence of the best of the recent" literature. Although no reader would agree that every chosen article fulfilled these criteria there will be many which will be recognised as old and valued friends, some which he will have missed and some which these well phrased abstracts will bring closer to his attention. Some are deliberately chosen to highlight their authors misapprehension, such as the article on Page 303 from Paris on Silastic orbital floor reconstruction.

This small volume is well illustrated with good reproductions of the more important original diagrams and photographs and the text is better produced than some of its predecessors, but misprints still obtrude. William A. Alonso's Parotid Duct Transfer for Xerophthalmia is described as an "ingenuous" operation.

This is an interesting book which must be popular if the price is any guide. The cost is only £1 greater than its predecessor. Its use is mainly in the library for those needing to revise topics outside their own particular interest. Within the subspecialties of Plastic Surgery a surgeon needs a wider range of reading than encompassed here from which to distil the essence of his subject.

JOHN LENDRUM

OCULOPLASTIC SURGERY. By CHARLES E. ILIFF, M.D., W. JACKSON ILIFF, M.D. and NICHOLAS T. ILIFF, M.D. Pp. x + 348., with illustrations: 543 in colour: 170 in black and white. (Philadelphia, London, Toronto, W. B. Saunders Company, 1979.) Price £62.75.

This is quite a remarkable book for several reasons. First of all, it is a family affair. The Senior author, Charles Iliff, is Professor of Ophthalmology at the John Hopkins University and Medical School and his two sons, both ophthalmic surgeons in private practice, have collaborated with their father in this production. In future, contributors to this Journal will no doubt have to refer to the volume as "Iliff et fam." rather than "et al.". The book is a practical guide based on the 30 years experience of the senior author who pays tribute to his teachers and colleagues amongst whom we note the names of Wendell Hughes, Byron Smith and J. C. Mustarde.

The immediate impression on opening the book is one of amazement at the incredible collection of superb colour illustrations which outnumber by more than two to one the black and white photographs and diagrams. This volume could stand in its own right as a colour atlas of ophthalmic surgical pathology, but the intra-operative pictures are so clear and so realistic that the reader feels that he too is in the operating theatre, his fingers itching to grasp the instruments and carry on with the operation that is laid out on the page before him. The colour photography is so outstanding that it is rather sad to find no acknowledgement anywhere in the text to the photographers and the block makers for their magnificent achievement. By contrast, the medical artist is mentioned by name and thanked for his efforts.

The layout of the book is a credit to the publishers and their design team who have achieved a balanced arrangement of the art-work and text that is a joy to behold. The pertinent references have been kept to a minimum and appear at the foot of the appropriate page. The text, too, is written in a clear concise style that only betrays its American origin in the occasional transatlantic spelling of familiar words.

The authors state in the preface that the book has been written to help those interested in what they choose to call a "new subspecialty: ophthalmic reconstructive surgery". There are eleven chapters that deal with surgical principles: ptosis; blepharoplasty; ectropion and entropion; lacrimal tract surgery; thyroid disease and oculoplastic surgery; mucocoeles; evisceration; enucleation and implant extrusion; tumours of the lids and adnexa; congenital defects and trauma. Most of the chapters are short (10-12 pages); the longest and amongst the best are those on ptosis (75 pages) and blepharoplasty (28 pages).

The surgical manoeuvres that are described rarely stray beyond the confines of the orbital cavity. There are occasional forays into the frontal sinus to deal with mucocoeles, into the nose as part of a dacryocyst-rhinostomy and onto the forehead to raise some rather unsatisfactory transverse flaps from the supraorbital region for lower eyelid defects. Occasionally their surgical safaris take them much farther: to the prepuce to gain soft pliable skin for upper eyelid grafts (page 8) and to the vagina to gather a mucosal graft to line an exenterated orbital cavity (page 220). Admittedly, they suggest that the latter operation should be done by a gynaecologist but their obvious desire to hide all their donor sites from view is commendable if somewhat extreme.

The parts of the book that are far from satisfactory concern the reconstruction of eyelids, particularly after excision of malignant lesions. There is no mention anywhere of Mustarde's use of compound chondro-mucosal grafts from the nasal septum and it is hard to believe that the authors are never faced