

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

with the problem of major eyelid repair in the Wilmer Institute in Boston. One is also surprised by the technique used for orbital decompression (page 159) and orbital exploration (page 301) using a 2 cm horizontal incision extending outwards from the outer canthus with removal of a segment of the lateral orbital region. Now that plastic surgeons like Tessier, Converse and others have shown the possibilities of cranio-orbital surgery there seems little justification for "key-hole surgery" in an area that most of us would regard as "tiger country". The section on trauma deals only with the soft tissues and the only fracture mentioned is the "blow out" variety.

Indeed it is the wider view of orbital surgery and repair that distinguishes Mustardé's book (reviewed in these columns) so strikingly from this text—a difference that is implicit in their deliberate choice of title. Yet both books deserve a place of honour on our shelves and we must be grateful to the Iliff family and the Publishers for giving us such a splendid volume at such a reasonable price.

MICHAEL N. TEMPEST

**CLINICAL ATLAS OF MUSCLE AND MUSCULOCUTANEOUS FLAPS.** By STEPHEN J. MATHES, M.D., and FOAD NAHAI, M.D. First Edition. Pp. xiii + 519, with 576 illustrations. (St. Louis: The C. V. Mosby Company, 1979). Price £23.75.

The recognition of the value of muscle and musculocutaneous flaps which seems to have partly replaced the recent great enthusiasm for free flaps in the plastic surgical literature makes this comprehensive work timely. As a technical atlas it draws together a description of useful and reliable flaps many of which have been described previously elsewhere. Some of them will certainly serve plastic and reconstructive surgeons for some time to come. The development of several of these flaps has greatly increased our choice of methods for reconstruction and has reduced to some extent the indications for the use of the free flap.

The written text of the book is short, but as a clinical atlas the work amply fulfills its aims in providing an excellent demonstration of muscle and musculocutaneous flaps. This it achieves by the use of simple line drawings and anatomical illustrations with a brief but succinct text. Many of the photographs are taken from cadaver dissections but as one would expect the more successful flaps are illustrated by clinical examples.

The short but valuable introduction, which deals with the important basic principles of muscle and musculocutaneous flaps as a whole, is followed by the main meat of the volume. All areas of the body are covered and the value of each muscle in that region is dealt with individually in a practical fashion. For example the reader may revise the anatomy of a muscle with reference to its origin, insertion, nerve supply and function. There then follows a detailed account of its all important blood supply and description of the skin territory if one exists. The authors then describe the arc of mobility of the flap around its vascular hilum before giving a very useful account of the operative technique of elevating the flap. Precautions are outlined and examples are given of the flap's use. In some instances this is solely as a pedicled muscle or musculocutaneous flap but in others its added value as a free flap is mentioned. The whole of this main section is particularly useful. It will be of assistance to those who are contemplating such a flap for the first time and wish to practise in the dissecting room and it forms an invaluable guide for those planning and performing these flaps on difficult clinical problems.

Many readers will be acquainted with several of the flaps mentioned as some of them are well tested, reliable and have a wide application. In their enthusiasm however the authors do seem to have sacrificed a degree of credibility for the sake of completeness in some instances. For example, it is hard to imagine a situation where one would be prepared to dispense with the abductor pollicis brevis to cover a small palmar defect.

The appendix consists of an alphabetical list of areas of the body or specific clinical problems under which are grouped several alternative methods of muscular or musculocutaneous reconstructions. This section is valuable as it provides a simple and rapid reference for the plastic surgeon when faced with a difficult reconstructive problem which may be solved by such a flap.

Considering the number of black and white illustrations included in its pages and the comparative cost of similar books, the price is reasonable and many reconstructive surgeons will find this work a very useful reference volume for inclusion in their library.

P. J. SYKES

**PSYCHO-SOCIAL ASPECTS OF A SEVERE BURN: A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE.** By M. L. BOWDEN, CLAUDELLA A. JONES and IRVING FELLER. Pp. xiii + 127. (Ann Arbor, Michigan: National Institute for Burn Medicine, 1979). Price \$16.

This volume is published as a supplement to the International Bibliography on Burns which has been produced now for several years, with annual supplements, by the National Institute for Burn Medicine at Ann Arbor under the general direction of Dr Irving Feller.

Two thirds of this supplement consist of an annotated bibliography of those papers thought by the