

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