

authors to have relevance in a discussion on the psycho-social aspects of a severe burn and the rehabilitation of burn victims and their families. Some 159 papers are carefully indexed and reviewed according to the content, major findings, type of research, profession of the first named author and the centre in which the work was conducted. Each article is then assigned to one of three categories (advocacy, clinical or empirical) which were described and used by Doehrmann (1977) in a paper describing the psycho-social aspects of recovery from coronary heart disease. I found this categorisation incomprehensible and unhelpful.

Some of the papers listed in the review section are far from recent. Several deal with the Coconut Grove disaster in 1943 and one contribution by Globus was published in 1936. Some of the papers are already well known to readers of this Journal, particularly those by Jackson and Woodward from the Birmingham Accident Hospital Burns Unit. These papers were so clearly written that the annotators to this bibliography have been unable to distort the clear message of the original texts. The same cannot be said of many of the other annotated reviews which are so packed with psycho-social jargon as to be almost unreadable. The primary fault may well have been in the original papers, but the annotators have not helped to clarify the meaning or standardise the terminology.

The first part of the volume (40 papers in all) is even more disturbing in its style and content. It is a long chapter printed under the names of all three authors who are respectively the Director of Rehabilitation, the Director of Education and the President of the National Institute for Burn Medicine, so that we will never know who actually wrote the text. It has an introduction in which great play is made of a concept called the Patient-Environment (P-E) Fit. This is based on the assumption that "behaviour is a function of the complex interplay between person and environment at a given point in time as expressed in the formula $B=f(P-E) \dots$ " We are then given several pages and Tables listing the P-E Fit factors that can affect the occurrence of a burn, the hospital adjustment and the outcome adjustment. Mention is made on almost every page of the very limited information that is available and the even greater difficulty of analysing and comparing the miserably inadequate information that they have gleaned from the literature. Yet despite these serious limitations the authors have had a field day spinning out arguments and theories that could have been more clearly expressed in 4 pages. There are times when we all value greatly the contributions that psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers can make in the management of our burned patients. But there are times when we despair of their inability to speak and write the same language. If we cannot understand one another, how can we possibly help one another? I found little for comfort in this publication and was saddened to read that no less than 3 Research grants had been required to produce this mighty mouse.

MICHAEL N. TEMPEST

THE MANAGEMENT OF TRAUMA. Edited by ZUIDEMA, G. D., RUTHERFORD, R. B., BALLINGER, W.F. Third edition Pp. 863 with 335 illustrations. (Philadelphia, Toronto, London, W.B. Saunders Company, 1979). Price £25.75.

This, the third edition, has been enlarged from 779 to 833 pages and the number of authors from 39 to 58. The extra 6 chapters are partly the result of dividing previous ones and partly the result of adding new ones. Thus, cardiopulmonary resuscitation has been separated from anaesthesia and injuries of the neck from those of the face; a new chapter on pulmonary failure ("shock lung") has been added.

The opening chapters on examination, pathology, physiology and their overlap are sound, comprehensive and authoritative but one may wonder whether there should by now be a chapter on radiological and associated diagnosis and it is surprising to find no mention of Heimlich's manoeuvre and little reference to the crush syndrome.

It is comforting these days, when there has been so much technical advance in both observation and investigation, to find that the importance of careful clinical observation after serious injury of the head is stressed. The management of such patients is dealt with briefly and in general terms and, in keeping with the editors' stated policy, the emphasis is on early care so that there is little said about the later and lasting effects of severe cerebral injury. Among the most difficult everyday questions are whom to admit and whom to radiograph: this topic is passed over. Spinal injuries are dealt with in the same chapter and along similar lines.

Injuries of the face and neck are dealt with with a fair amount of practical detail; tracheostomy with a flap is not mentioned, nor is the ease with which a child's trachea (and associated vessels) can be pulled up into the neck. The chest and belly are dealt with with an abundance of practical advice, but the techniques of thoracotomy are not described and it is surprising to find no mention of splitting the sternum in order to extend an abdominal incision into the chest.

In the management of wounds one does not expect to read that gunshot wounds are not particularly dirty and of tetanus antitoxin but not of human immune globulin; perhaps antitoxin is now used to mean this. There is no practical detail about the technique of exploring wounds or of cutting split skin grafts, as against a fair amount of guidance in the use of more elaborate measures of closure and repair.

It is the chapters on fractures that are the most disappointing; they are brief and superficial with none of the practical advice and critical appraisal that has marked so many of the preceding chapters. Volkmann's ischaemic contracture receives little attention and is wrongly indexed. The description and illustration of Dunlop's traction are inconsistent.

The chapter on thermal injuries refers to 4 degrees of burning and includes sections on chemical and electrical burning and also on the effects of cold, but without reference to exposure and other sorts of

hypothermia. The choice between open and closed methods of treatment and the use of antibiotics and other antibacterial agents is well done but there is no mention of bags for burned hands nor of cutting the hard crust of circumferential burns.

The chapter on infection deserves to come earlier in the book and we should all remind ourselves frequently that those that we save by our initial care we may later kill with infection resulting from careless or over-vigorous use of invasive procedures.

It is not surprising that American authors can write more authoritatively on the wide range of disasters that are unfamiliar in Britain and there is a necessary realism about what they say. On the topic of organisation, it would have been interesting to know the authors' views on who should staff emergency departments and how they should be trained.

Considering the large number of authors the editors are to be congratulated on achieving a fairly consistent style, if not a wholly satisfactory balance. Varying degrees of scholarship (and subediting) are shown by neuropraxia as well as neurapraxia, vinculae as well as vincula and the consistent errors of Mohberg and supercondylar but typographical errors are very few and the book as a whole is produced at the level of excellence one expects of its publishers.

Those seeking advice and guidance will find much to help them in this, the best of the 3 editions and a bargain, these days, at £25.

PETER S. LONDON

SYMPOSIUM ON SURGERY OF THE AGING FACE. Educational Foundation of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons. Volume 19. Edited by DICRAN GOULIAN, M.D. and EUGENE H. COURTISS, M.D. (St. Louis: The C.V. Mosby Company, 1978). Price £32.00.

This Symposium was held in Denver, Colorado, in November 1976, the Symposium Faculty including nineteen leaders in the field of aesthetic surgery in the United States of America. For any plastic surgeon engaging in surgery for the aging face this book contains a wealth of information, every aspect being extensively detailed with interesting discussions.

Variations in technique for the male and female, variations in the type of lift for different cases and the alternative operations—wide or limited undermining of skin, dissection beneath the superficial muscular and aponeurotic systems with plication of this layer—all these are fully described. A word of caution should be given to those surgeons with limited experience using this book for their own teaching. Many of the techniques described are safe in experienced hands but for the inexperienced, dangerous complications could arise, such as damage to the cervical branch of the facial nerve in removing submandibular fatty pads. Stress is laid on the platysma muscle in correcting neck bands, again techniques that should be approached with care.

The section on surgery of the eyelids has a wealth of superb detail worthy of repeated reading. Yet again, a word of caution, the danger of aggravating swelling from fluid retention in this region by surgery is not adequately stressed and patient selection should be thorough. The impression from these chapters is that such swelling can be controlled; this is not always so and should be assessed before surgery in order to avoid unhappy results. Removal of fatty pads and fatty herniations in the eyelids, essential in many patients, requires a more than meticulous technique to prevent the rare complication of loss of sight, perhaps not adequately stressed in the book.

This is a book which should be studied by all surgeons treating the aging face. The techniques are well described and criticised in the discussions, but should be approached with care by anyone with limited experience. Pertinently, perhaps, the chapter on the Dissatisfied Patient is excellent. The price of £32.00 is in keeping with today's inflationary prices and may deter many would-be purchasers.

IVOR BROOMHEAD

PLASTIC SURGERY. Edited by WILLIAM C. GRABB, M.D. and JAMES W. SMITH, M.D. 3rd Edition. Pp. xvii+951: numerous illustrations. (Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1979). Price £25.00.

The first two editions of this work were published in 1968 and 1973 and it rapidly became the most popular short reference book in Plastic Surgery. Since 1973 the specialty has advanced and expanded rapidly and the new edition has been extensively revised to take in these changes.

The general format of the book remains the same although the words "A concise guide to Clinical Practice" have been omitted from its title. The pages are a little larger but there are slightly fewer of them.

There are two entirely new sections, one on the breast and the other on microsurgery and while the headings of the other six sections are unchanged there is an impressive total of 30 contributions from new authors. In particular there are new chapters on "Craniofacial Surgery" (Ian R. Munro) on