

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.

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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.

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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