

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

"Reconstructive procedures of the lower extremity" (L.O. Vasconez and John B. McCraw) and on "Gender Dysphoria" (Donald R. Laub and Bruce J. Dubin).

The new section on microsurgery provides a useful synopsis of the basics of this rapidly changing field. It is perhaps predictable that the monographs on "Replantation" (Graham Lister and Harold Kleinert) and on the "Repair of peripheral nerves" (H. Millesi) should be models of clarity and concise writing.

The new section on "The Breast" provides a number of useful reviews on the major problems which face the plastic surgeon and includes chapters on the "Management of benign and premalignant disease" (R. M. Oneal and W. W. Blackburn) and on "Reconstruction after mastectomy" (T. D. Cronin) together with a masterly new contribution on "Reduction and Mastopexy" (P. K. McKissock).

The editors have succeeded well in controlling and pruning the efforts of their numerous contributors but inevitably there are some areas which any reviewer would like to see altered. Some chapters have changed little and provide no new references and it is a pity that the section on basic techniques does not include a longer exposition on the principle and use of musculocutaneous flaps. The results of dermabrasion for the removal of professional tattoos are difficult to reproduce and the two photographs in Fig. 19 8 have probably been reversed.

These criticisms are minor and cannot detract from the great usefulness of a book which packs so much information into one volume. Once again the editors have successfully squeezed a quart into a pint pot and it must surely go on to many more editions. The book must be one of the first that a plastic surgeon should buy despite its new price of £25.00.

M. A. P. MILLING

OUTPATIENT SURGERY. By GEORGE J. HILL, II. 2nd Edn. Pp. xxv + 1457, with 638 illustrations and 107 tables. (Philadelphia, London and Toronto; W.B. Saunders, 1980). Price £28.75.

The need for out-patient surgery in any community is beyond doubt but the place of a massive textbook such as "Out-patient Surgery" is open to question. The volume presents a text similar to many works covering the whole surgical field, in size and to some extent content, but has been written particularly to help young surgeons, interns and medical students, in the realisation that out-patient care is frequently delegated to junior staff with relatively little supervision.

In discussing the advantages of early ambulation, however, no reference is made to home circumstances and there is no insistence that the patient's General Practitioner should be consulted. The chapter for a surgeon visiting developing countries mentions, fortunately, the relative or friend accompanying the patient but there is virtually no other reference to this important administrative and human point. The many contributions include anaesthesia, infections (such as snake and spider bites), orthopaedics, tumours and chemotherapy. Useful summaries about endocrinology may be helpful for surgeons working in this field but endocrine surgery can scarcely be done as an out-patient, a criticism which could be made of the chapters on skull and nervous system, cardiac conditions, tracheo-oesophageal fistula and transplantation although justification for many of the sections is included. In contrast, the paragraph on diabetes is very short although this may be a complicating factor for many surgical patients. The out-patient physician would not dare to treat eye conditions solely on the information obtained here and I would suggest that the ear, nose and throat procedures present only one section in the practice of a specialist in these conditions rather than a guide to the out-patient physician in dealing with E.N.T. problems. The hand chapter recognises that more hands are harmed by too ambitious attempts at treatment than by too little but information conflicts with previous chapters dealing with ganglion, DeQuervain's disease and carpal tunnel. Readers looking for definitive advice may find this confusing as will the trainee anaesthetist attempting an I.V. block with differing advice in chapters 3 and 12. In the chapter on trauma, the section on cardiac arrest is rather misleading in that it suggests a "delay of 8-10 minutes is fatal" although, fortunately, this mistake is corrected in two subsequent chapters. Inguinal hernia repair has a surprisingly short description and the high ligation and excision of the hernial sac is dismissed in one line. In a book of this magnitude I would have thought that the details of the hernia operation should have matched, in clarity and art work, the description of breast biopsy which is excellent.

The method of presentation of each chapter differs and in only the chapters on eyes and on anus and rectum is there any anatomical detail. The section on thrombophlebitis and post-phlebotic syndrome is particularly sound and includes a two page list of instructions for patients with this most insoluble of problems. The chapter on "integument", or skin, will be of most interest to readers of this journal although they will not be very keen that some of the procedures, including re-implantation of a free scalp flap, should be carried out by more general or out-patient surgeons. Correct planning is rightly emphasised rather than adjuvant measures such as hyperbaric oxygen. Unfortunately, this balanced advice is not maintained elsewhere and the chapter on urology, which includes several duplications, is particularly bad in this respect. Although radio-isotope scanning is advised in the diagnosis of testicular torsion, cytology is not mentioned in the investigation of haematuria. Venereal diseases are covered in six pages yet cryptorchidism has less than one page that suggests a trial of H.C.G., dismissing orchidopexy in less than one line. A surprisingly short chapter on fibre-optic endoscopy describes only upper gastro-intestinal examination, colonoscopy and bronchoscopy, leaving sigmoidoscopy in the ano-rectal chapter. There is very little on cystoscopy, even in the urology chapter, arthroscopy is not mentioned and laparoscopy, included in the