

## Book Reviews

**Current Operative Surgery: Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.** Edited by Ian F. K. Muir. Pp. ix + 173 with 144 illustrations and tables. (London, Philadelphia, Toronto: Ballière Tindall, 1986. Distributed by Holt-Saunders Ltd., Eastbourne, Sussex). Price £29.50.

This book is one of those collections in which the Editor has asked a number of recognised authorities to write a chapter on a topic of current interest to plastic surgeons. On this occasion the emphasis is on operative surgery. These are eight chapters and they cover a wide range; interestingly, Robinson's on pharyngeal reconstruction by microvascular jejunal transfer is the only one devoted to a microvascular technique, although Soutar's useful review of methods of lining defects of the mouth includes an excellent description of the use of the radial forearm flap. These two chapters illustrate the widely differing approaches used by different contributors. On the one hand there are those who, like Soutar, review current practice; Wade and Ward on the common problems of primary flexor tendon repair and breast reconstruction, and David on the uncommon Treacher Collins syndrome do so clearly and well. On the other hand the description of personal techniques, used by Robinson, is shared by Borchgrevink who describes the Oslo approach to cleft palate surgery, a welcome chapter in view of the superb results obtained in that Unit. Regrettably, while the primary surgery is described in meticulous detail there is only a very brief description of their technique of bone grafting. Van der Meulen starts his chapter on hypospadias with a review of the embryology of the condition, useful if perhaps straying from the main theme, but restricts himself to his own surgical innovations. However, he describes, perhaps for the first time, an interesting variation of the preputial island flap. Adamson sets out his own technique of facelift by the SMAS technique and suction lipectomy.

The book is illustrated by clear line drawings and black and white photography of variable quality, and there are useful references at the end of each chapter.

A book of this type has to stand comparison with other compendia of the "current trends" or "recent advances" genre. There is inevitably some overlap between them, although less than one might expect, and the style and standard of the contributions here are uneven. However, the best of them are excellent. While there is little that is new, there is much that is of interest and it is helpful to have such information so easily accessible. The price may seem high for 173 pages but it too is in keeping with current trends and is considerably less than that of any medical book from across the Atlantic. This is a good buy for the busy surgeon.

A. C. H. WATSON

**Problems in Aesthetic Surgery.** Biological causes and clinical solutions. Edited by Ross Rudolph. Pp xix + 434 with 198 illustrations, 3 colour plates. (St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co, 1986). Price £59.50.

Together with the editor, 27 authors have contributed to the 19 chapters of a volume which has a rather misleading title. Over half of the chapters cover aspects of basic science applicable to the whole range of plastic and reconstructive surgery, and thus

the readership of this book should be much wider than the title suggests. The topics covered are wound healing in cosmetic surgery, healing of the open wound, the biomechanical properties of tissue, healing in compromised tissues, skin grafts and hair transplants, prostaglandins and thromboxanes, keloids and hypertrophic scars, perioperative hypertension, infectious disease problems, aging of skin, disorders of pigmentation, regulation of human adipose tissue metabolism, a biologic approach to collagen replacement, peripheral nerve regeneration in the face, elastic fibres in cutaneous elastoses, dermabrasion and chemical peel, lasers and treatment of port wine stain haemangiomas, cosmetics and skin preparation, and capsular contracture in the augmented breast. The last four chapters were of particular value as was the section on healing in compromised tissues which included reviews of the effects of irradiation and smoking on wound healing. In such a volume discussing problems in aesthetic surgery, I was surprised and disappointed to find only 2% of space (8/434 pages) devoted to infectious disease problems, but a disproportionate 31 pages to elastic fibres in cutaneous elastoses. The 34 pages devoted to dermabrasion and chemical peel, however, were worthwhile and a useful review of the problems and limitations of these procedures. An important omission from the discussion of intralesional triamcinolone for treatment of hypertrophic scars was any indication of dose or dose limitation. This is clearly important—particularly in children, and the incidence of allergic response to this therapy should have received mention.

As with many multi-author texts some contributions are more readable than others, and several could with benefit have been made far more concise—either by the contributor, or failing that the editor (is that not what editors are for?). Sadly, but predictably, in such an American publication only one of the listed contributors works outside North America.

Random checking revealed mis-spelling of 'recurrent' (p. 2), an incorrect page reference for Fig 2-4, and inaccurate references for Fig 4-7 and Fig 7-3; the first numbered superscript reference on p. 264 should be <sup>1</sup> and not <sup>2</sup>.

This book has drawn together useful information from otherwise scattered sources and at £59.50 is good value and should be available in all plastic surgery departmental libraries.

R. W. GRIFFITHS

**Atlas of Wrist and Hand Fractures.** 2nd Edition. By S. C. Sandzen, Jr. Pp xiii + 498 with 1290 illustrations. (Massachusetts: PSG Publishing Co. Inc., 1986. Distributed by Wright, Techno House, Redcliffe Way, Bristol). Price £65.

This is an excellent reference book for anyone interested in hand surgery, be they plastic or orthopaedic surgeons. It is full of plentiful radiographic and clinical figures illustrating a well written text. Whether it is necessary for every plastic surgical library to have a copy for reference may be in doubt, especially in units where hand surgery is not a strong feature. On the other hand, it might be argued that the information contained would be useful in strengthening this weakness. There is a tendency to look at the pictures rather than read the text, though having looked at the excellent pictures one really has to go to the text to get the complete information. Soft tissue problems and management do not form the major purpose or content of this book, but are discussed. This includes a complete chapter on crush injuries and another on retained foreign bodies.

The author has written this book, based on more than twenty years' personal experience, and he is to be congratulated on the production of a very useful reference book.

J. C. MCGREGOR

**Surgery of the Mouth and Jaws.** Edited by J. R. Moore. Pp. x+870 with 698 figures and 42 tables. (Oxford, London, Edinburgh, Boston, Palo Alto, Melbourne: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1985). Price £125.

This is a large book: a work of reference which covers all aspects of surgery of the mouth and jaws. It has been written by eighteen contributors under the editorship of J. R. Moore, formerly Professor of Oral Surgery at the University of Manchester.

The book has been well produced and the reader is immediately impressed by the superb quality of the line drawings. For clarity, simplicity and ease of comprehension they are outstanding and a shining example to many would be illustrators. The photographic illustrations of patients and radiographs are also of high quality. Regrettably, some of the operative photographs, particularly the intra-oral ones, are too dark and convey nothing to the reader. The text is clear and well written, which is a considerable achievement on the part of the editor and his associates. The references at the end of each section are abundant, up-to-date and extremely useful.

Much of the text deals with subjects which are in the province of the oral surgeon—facial osteotomies, operations on the teeth, pre-prosthetic surgery and so on. There are also sections on diseases of the salivary glands, tumours of the mouth and jaws and an interesting final chapter on the care of patients following oral surgery. This chapter covers many aspects of intensive care, but omits any discussion about taking the history from the patient or eliciting from him or her any account of symptoms which may influence management.

My only real disappointment with this volume is that, with the exception of the chapter on cleft lip and palate, the accounts of reconstructive procedures are so weak.

The methods of lip reconstruction using vertical advancement popular in the 19th century without discussion of the Gillies fan flap and other methods of repair of large lip defects which introduce tissue into the horizontal plane rather than transferring the defect in a vertical manner are inadequate, inexpert and regrettable in a book of this calibre. Furthermore, the three-and-a-half pages on "Major Flaps in Reconstruction" are derisory.

Failure to treat this aspect of the subject adequately is to have missed the opportunity of producing one of the finest books published in recent years, on subjects of interest to oral and plastic surgeons alike. It is to be hoped that these important subjects will be dealt with more fully and more expertly in future editions.

Nonetheless, this is a valuable and worthwhile book and it is enthusiastically recommended to all those who have an interest in the surgery of the mouth and jaws.

J. P. BENNETT

**Hand Surgery Review.** 2nd Edition. By Roy A. Meals and Malcolm A. Lesavoy. Pp. ix + 354. (Massachusetts: PSG Publishing Co. Inc., 1985. Distributed by Wright, Techno House, Redcliffe Way, Bristol BS1 6NX.) Price £18.

This book provides a representative selection of 2362 references covering most of the common hand conditions met with in practice. It is not meant to be comprehensive nor in a book of 354 pages could it be so.

The first quarter of the book indexes hand diseases and conditions, referring the reader to a selection of references for each condition. The remaining three-quarters is taken up with the actual references under the headings of general, congenital, infections, rheumatoid, trauma and tumour. It is in soft back form and particularly economical of space and reasonably priced at £18.

The book would find a valuable place in hand surgical practice, particularly where there was active participation in publications. It would also be a useful ready reference to complement the Indices Medicus in the larger reference libraries.

J. COLVILLE

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