

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.

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